

NO.53... JUNE...JULY

TEN CENTS



# BATMAN

A 52 PAGE  
MAGAZINE

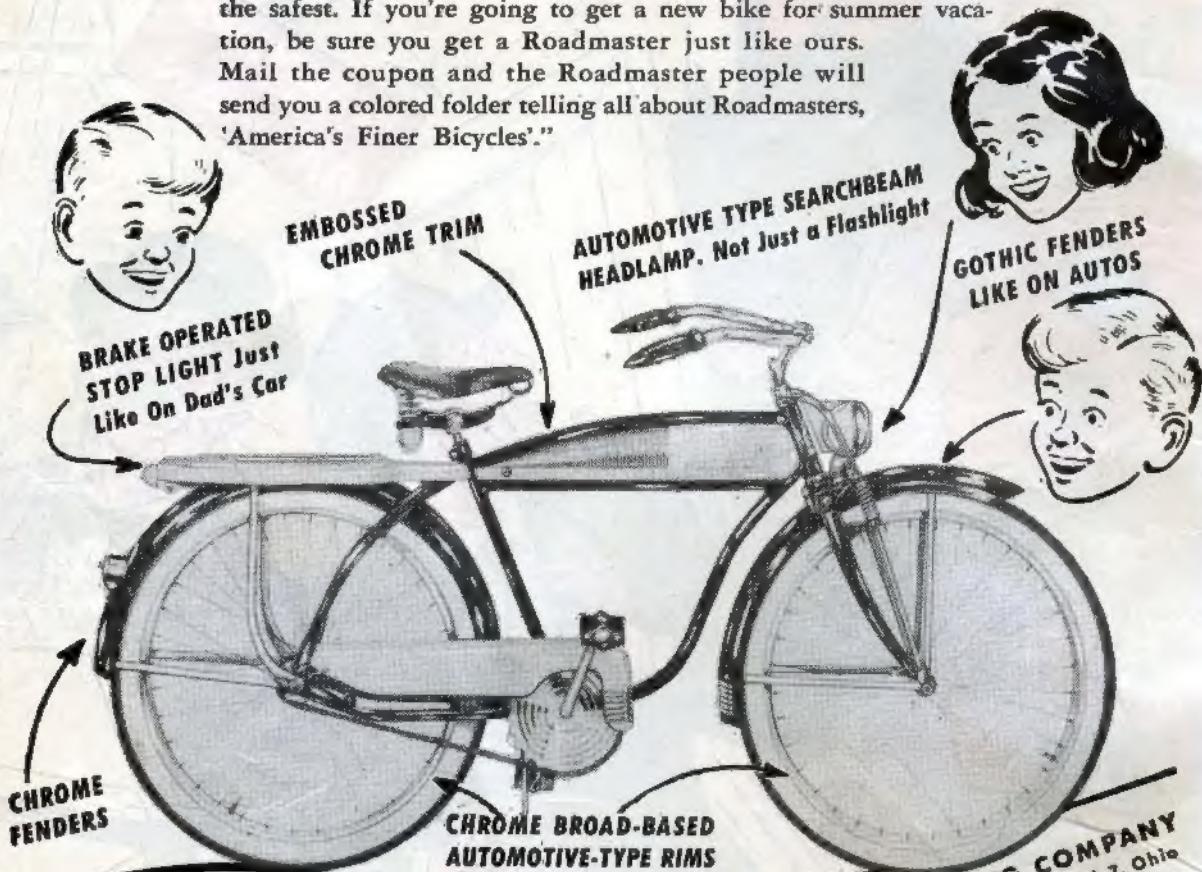
WARNING  
FROM  
BATMAN





# Bobby and Jane tell you why they chose **ROADMASTER\*** for their Summer Vacation

• "When Dad said we kids could get new bicycles for summer vacation, we rushed downtown and looked at every bicycle we could find. We even tried them out, and what do you think? We both chose Roadmaster Luxury Liners. They're really super! Roadmasters have so many things just like Dad's new automobile —chromium, Gothic fenders . . . stop-light operated from the brake . . . a real searchbeam headlamp . . . broad base rims that hold more air . . . two-tone colors and shiny sparkling embossed chrome trim. Yes, and the man who sold them to us said they were 100% safer because the frames are electronically welded. We think they're the best-looking bicycles on the road, and the safest. If you're going to get a new bike for summer vacation, be sure you get a Roadmaster just like ours. Mail the coupon and the Roadmaster people will send you a colored folder telling all about Roadmasters, 'America's Finer Bicycles'."



MAIL THIS COUPON  
NOW!

**THE CLEVELAND WELDING COMPANY**  
West 117th Street & Berea Road • Cleveland 7, Ohio  
Gentlemen: Please rush to me a folder showing the Roadmaster  
in colors.  
Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT

# BATMAN

WITH  
**ROBIN**  
-THE BOY WONDER-

CAN YOU IMAGINE THE  
OF THE UNDERWORLD, RAIDING A JEWELRY  
SHOP, YET ESCAPING WITH ONLY A  
STOLEN HAIRPIN AS HIS LOOT? WHAT'S  
BEHIND THIS APPARENTLY RIDICULOUS  
CRIME AND OTHER PREPOSTEROUS  
PRANKS THAT FOLLOW? WHAT NEW  
KNAVEY HAS THE HARLEQUIN OF  
CRIME DEVISED IN AN ALL-OUT ATTEMPT  
TO MAKE MONKEYS OUT OF BATMAN  
AND ROBIN? THE AMAZING ANSWER  
-IS IN THE HARROWING ADVENTURE  
CALLED: "A HAIRPIN,  
A HOE,  
A HACKSAW,  
A HOLE  
IN THE  
GROUND!"

HA

Ho

HA

Ho  
HA

Ho  
HA  
HA

Bob  
Kane

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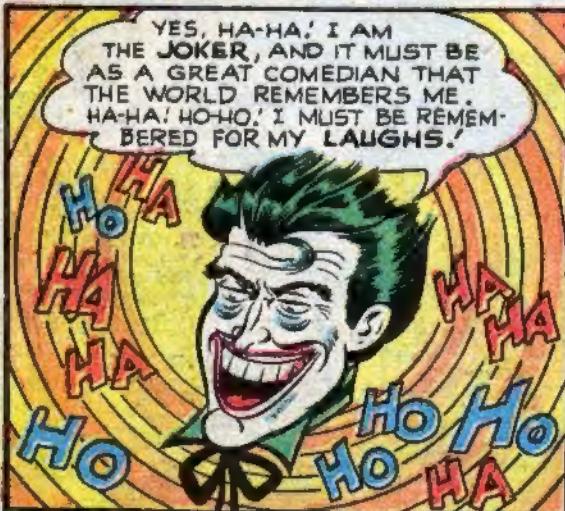
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IN HIS SECRET HIDEOUT NEAR GOTHAM CITY, THAT FEARSOME VILLAIN, THE JOKER, TAKES STRANGE INVENTORY OF HIS POSSESSIONS...



A MOMENT LATER, THE CLOWN PRINCE OF CRIME ENTERS HIS MAGNIFICENT SILVER ROOM...



HIS TWISTED BRAIN FIRED BY THIS NEWEST FANCY, THE JOKER SCORNFULLY LISTENS TO A TOP RADIO COMIC...



MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF GOTHAM CITY, SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE, AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, ARE ALSO BUSY WITH TELEVISION...





LOOK, DICK—A COMEDIAN. MORE FUN TO LOOK AT THAN, SAY, THE JOKER!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION THE JOKER—I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO? THINGS HAVE BEEN QUIET FOR TOO LONG!



AND THE NEXT DAY, AS IF IN ANSWER TO DICK'S PREMONITION...

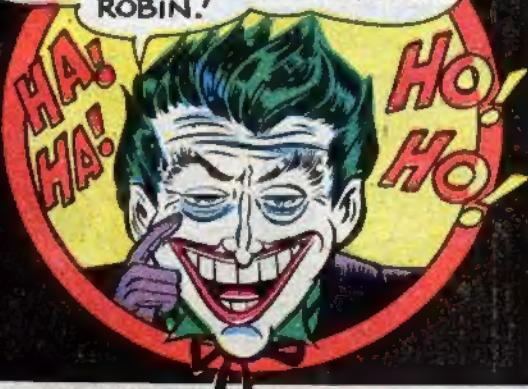
LISTEN, BOSS—IF YOU WANNA BE AN AUTHOR, THAT'S OKAY FOR YOU! BUT THE BOYS ARE GETTIN' KINDA RESTLESS... THEY'RE ITCHIN' FOR ANOTHER JOB...

DON'T WORRY, LEFTY—I'VE THOUGHT OF THAT. AND THIS CHAPTER I'M WRITING ON LAUGHS HAS GIVEN ME A NEW CRIMINAL SCHEME—ONE TO BAFFLE THE BATMAN!

HA-HA!



YES, I, THE JOKER, AM NOW READY WITH LAUGH CRIMES. THAT'S RIGHT! MY CRIME WILL LAUGH AT EVERYONE—BUT PARTICULARLY AT MY DEAR FRIENDS, BATMAN AND ROBIN!



AND LESS THAN 24 HOURS LATER, THE JOKER STRIKES.

DON'T MOVE, ANYONE! QUICK, BOYS—ALL I WANT IS A HAIRPIN! TAKE IT FROM THAT LADY!

HA-HA!

A HAIRPIN??



WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE...

BUT I TELL YOU—IT WAS THE JOKER! AND ALL HE TOOK WAS MY HAIRPIN!

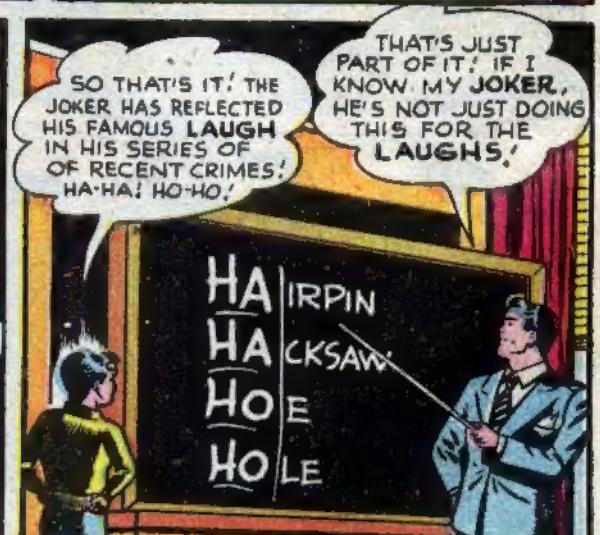


AND EVEN AS GOTHAM CITY BUZZES WITH THIS BIZARRE EVENT, ANOTHER IS IN THE MAKING!

ALL RIGHT, FOOL! TOSS OVER THAT HACK-SAW IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

THE JOKER!





SUDDENLY, AN EERIE SIGNAL LIGHTS UP THE SKY, SUMMONING THE GREAT CRIME-FIGHTERS, BATMAN AND ROBIN, TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

AND UNDOUBTEDLY IT INVOLVES THE JOKER!

SOMETHING'S UP!



HA-HA! BATMAN! BY NOW YOU'VE PROBABLY DISCOVERED THAT I'VE HIDDEN MY FAMOUS LAUGH WITHIN MY LATEST CRIMES! BUT WAIT, BATMAN—WAIT! WAIT TILL MY LAUGH STARTS TO ECHO!



YOU SEE, ROBIN? MAYBE THIS IS WHAT THE JOKER MEANT. IF HIS LAUGH "CAME BACK", IT WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS.

YES—BUT IT STILL DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.



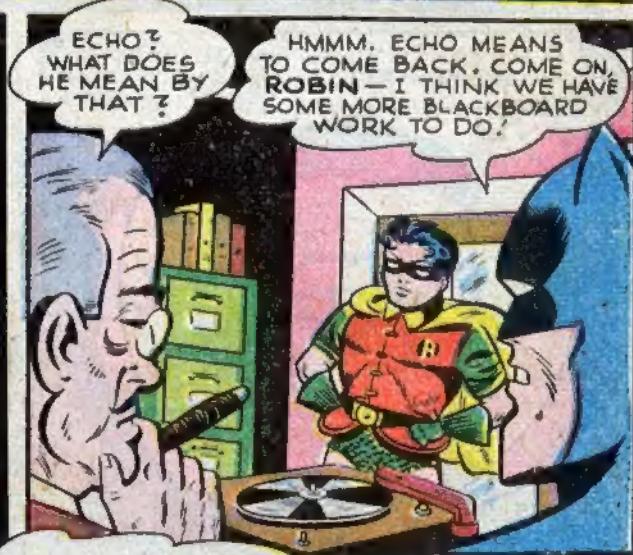
PRESENTLY...

THIS RECORD JUST ARRIVED, BATMAN. IT'S FOR YOU—FROM THE JOKER!



ECHO? WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY THAT?

HMM. ECHO MEANS TO COME BACK. COME ON, ROBIN—I THINK WE HAVE SOME MORE BLACKBOARD WORK TO DO!



HMM. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, THE JOKER USED HIS LAUGH TO START WORDS. IF NOW HE USED THE 'ECHO' TO END WORDS, HE MIGHT...THAT'S IT! I'VE GOT IT!





SO THAT'S WHAT IT ADDS UP TO—THE VISITING MAHARAJAH! UNDOUBTEDLY THE JOKER'S NEXT VICTIM—BUT WHEN, WHERE?

THE REST OF THE "ECHO" SHOULD TELL US THAT. BUT IT'S TIME FOR BED NOW, ROBIN. WE'LL TACKLE THIS AGAIN FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.

MAHARAJAH OF NIMP AH OH OH

AND EARLY THE NEXT DAY...

SAY—THAT'S WHERE THE JOKER STOLE THE HOLE IN THE GROUND.

HERE'S AN ITEM ON THE MAHARAJAH. HE'S TO PLAY GOLF THIS MORNING AT THE WINNE-KOH-TOH GOLF CLUB...

IT ALL FITS! THE LAST TWO LETTERS OF WINNE-KOH-TOH CONTAIN THE REST OF THE "ECHO"—LET'S GO!

HASTILY DONNING THE GARB OF BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE DYNAMIC DUO STREAKS INTO ACTION.

BUT BATMAN—WHY IS THE JOKER GOING TO ALL THIS TROUBLE TO ROB THE MAHARAJAH ON A GOLF COURSE?

PROBABLY BECAUSE HE IS AFTER THE RAJAH'S GOLDEN GOLF CLUBS—KEPT IN A SECRET HIDING PLACE EXCEPT WHEN IN USE!

MEANWHILE AT THE GOLF COURSE...

HA-HA! I'VE REPLACED THAT HOLE I STOLE—ONLY NOW IT CONTAINS A CHARGE OF BLINDING GAS, WITH A HAIRPIN ACTING AS A TRIGGER...

WATCHED BY HIS TWO BODY-GUARDS, UNAWARE OF THE JOKER'S NEFARIOUS SCHEME, THE POTENTATE CAREFULLY LINES UP HIS PUTT...

PUTT STRAIGHT AND TRUE, RAJAH! WHEN THE BALL DROPS INTO THE CUP AND HITS THE HAIRPIN, I, THE JOKER, WILL TAKE OVER! HA-HA!

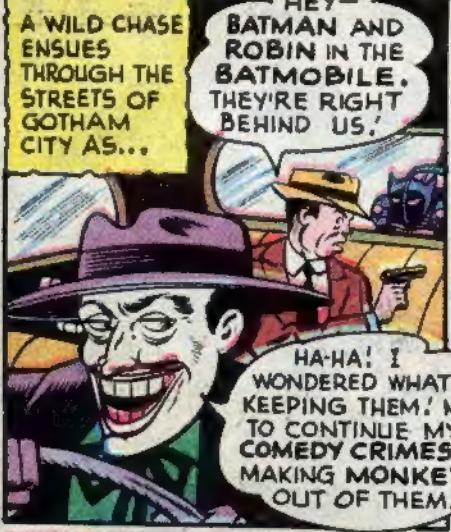


THE PUTT IS PERFECT, AND AS THE BALL DROPS, A CLOUD OF TEAR GAS BURSTS FROM THE CLIP...



A WILD CHASE ENSUES THROUGH THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY AS...

HEY—  
BATMAN AND  
ROBIN IN THE  
BATMOBILE.  
THEY'RE RIGHT  
BEHIND US!



THE JOKER'S SPEEDING CAR VEERS INTO AN ALLEY IN THE CITY'S INDUSTRIAL OUTSKIRTS, AND...

A FITTING PLACE TO TRAP THE BATMAN— IN A PLACE THAT MANUFACTURES LAUGHS!

F. ROGUSON NOVEL  
TRICKS - JOKES  
STAGE EFFECTS

BE CAREFUL.  
THE JOKER WILL  
BE TRICKIER  
THAN EVER  
IN THESE  
SURROUNDINGS.



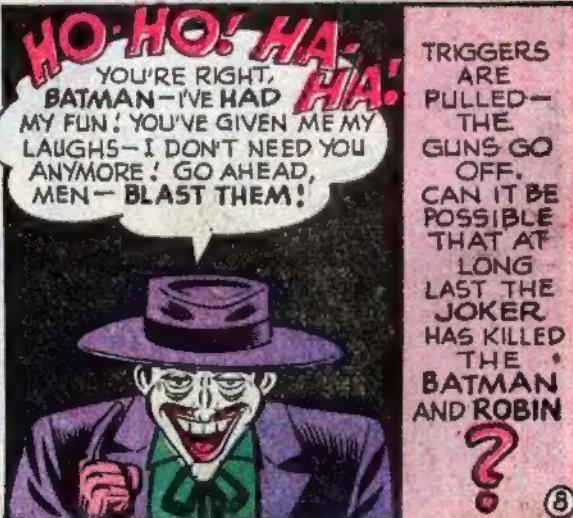
KER-CHOO!  
IT'S—  
SNEEZING  
POWDER!

KER-CHOO!

HA-HA! HO-HO!  
BUT REMEMBER—  
THE JOKER IS NOT  
TO BE SNEEZED  
AT!

CAUTIOUSLY, BATMAN  
AND ROBIN PICK UP  
THE TRAIL IN A MISTY  
WAREHOUSE FILLED  
WITH WEIRD PROPS  
AND TRICK DEVICES...







BUT...

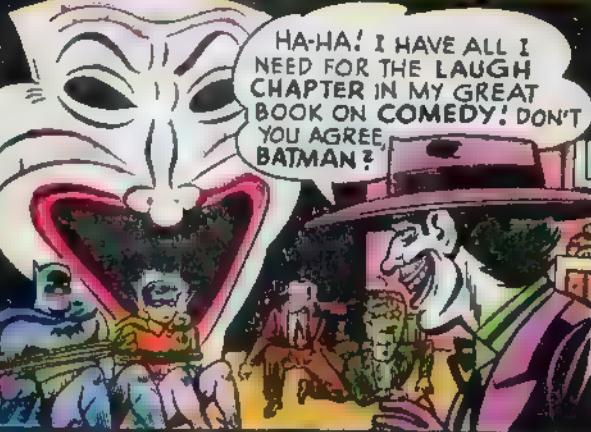
(SPLUTTER)  
WATER  
PISTOLS!HO-HO..HA-HA!  
YOU FORGOT THIS IS A TRICK  
NOVELTY WAREHOUSE! DID  
YOU EVER SEE ANYTHING  
FUNNIER?!!GLUG!  
GLUG!BUT BEFORE THE JOKER AND HIS MEN CAN FULLY ENJOY THEIR  
MADCAP PRANK, THE ENRAGED CRIME-BUSTERS SWING INTO  
ACTION...ENOUGH'S  
ENOUGH!YES-I DON'T LIKE PLAYING  
STRAIGHT MAN FOR THE  
JOKER!YOU MIGHT  
CALL ME AN  
INDIAN-GIVER!THIS ONE AIN'T NO  
WATER-PISTOL-  
OOOFF!WELL, THAT TAKES CARE  
OF THEM. NOW TO GET THE  
JOKER! PICK UP THAT WATER  
PISTOL, ROBIN. WE MAY GET  
SOME FINGERPRINTS FOR  
OUR LABORATORY FILE ON  
THE JOKER'S MOB.BUT AS THE LAWMEN PREPARE  
TO LEAVE, THE SARCOPHAGUS  
BEHIND THEM SLOWLY  
OPENS, AND...

THE JOKER'S SWIFTNESS SURPRISES BATMAN AND ROBIN. BEFORE THEY CAN RECOVER...

HA-HA! I HAVE ALL I NEED FOR THE LAUGH CHAPTER IN MY GREAT BOOK ON COMEDY! DON'T YOU AGREE, BATMAN?

HEY, BOSS—LET'S SEE WHO THE BATMAN IS. TAKE OFF HIS MASK!

HA-HA! WHY NOT?



BUT SUDDENLY THE JOKER'S HAND HALTS IN MID-AIR, AS...

NO-WAIT! I COULD UNMASK YOU NOW, BATMAN, BUT THAT WOULD ONLY TAKE AWAY WHAT LITTLE FUN IS LEFT TO ME—THE FUN-LOVING JOKER!

YES, BATMAN, I WILL LET YOUR IDENTITY REMAIN A SECRET. FOR YOU AFFORD ME THE THRILL OF A SUPREME BATTLE OF WITS EACH TIME WE MEET!

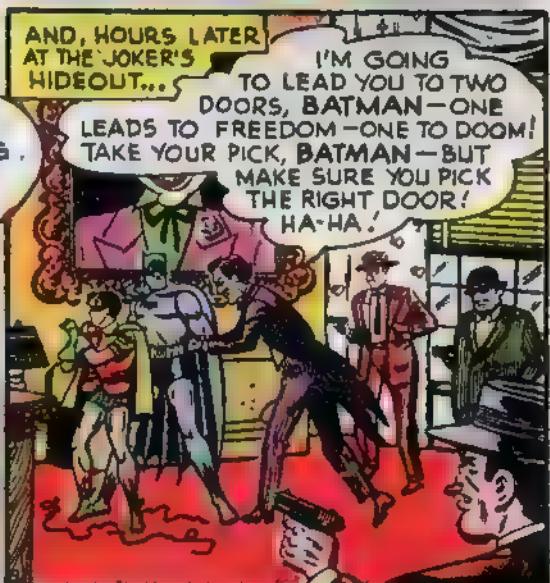
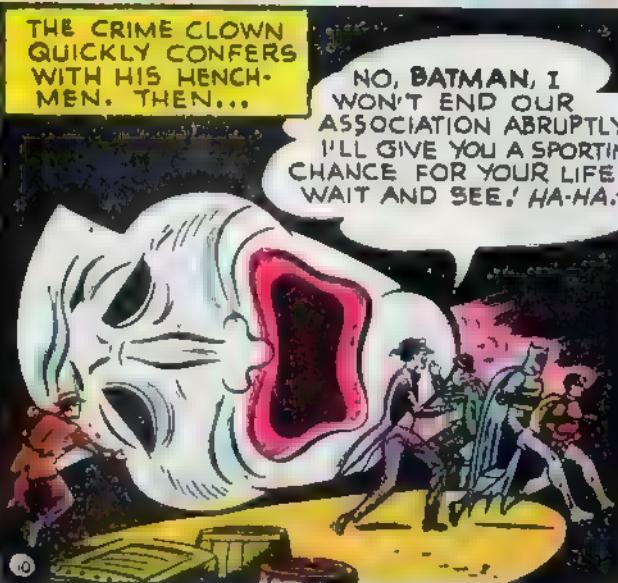


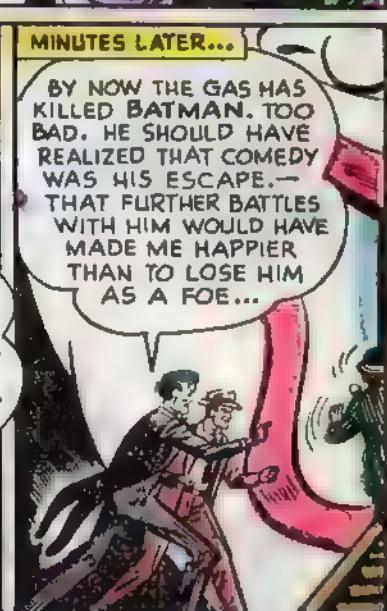
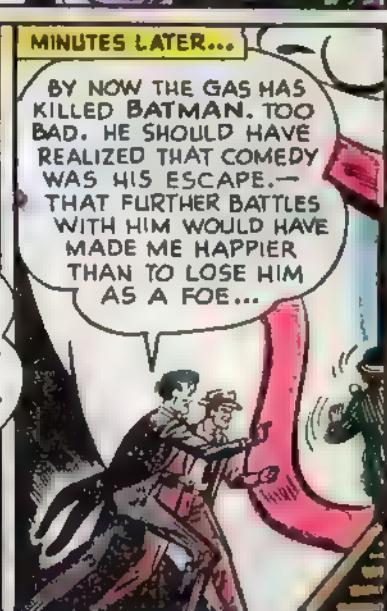
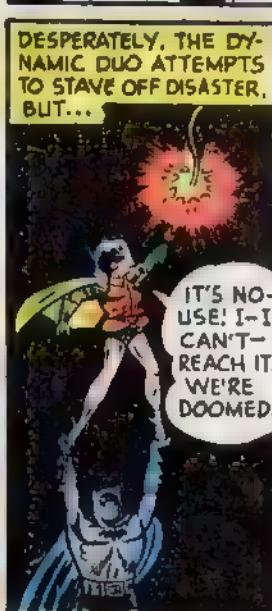
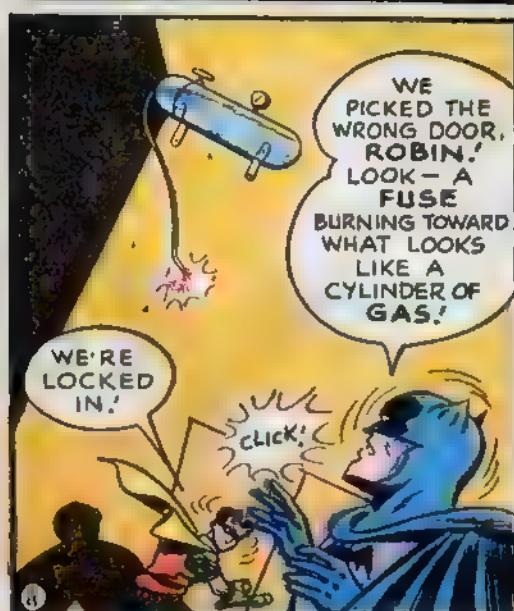
THE CRIME CLOWN QUICKLY CONFERS WITH HIS HENCHMEN. THEN...

NO, BATMAN, I WON'T END OUR ASSOCIATION ABRUPTLY! I'LL GIVE YOU A SPORTING CHANCE FOR YOUR LIFE—WAIT AND SEE! HA-HA!

AND, HOURS LATER, AT THE JOKER'S HIDEOUT...

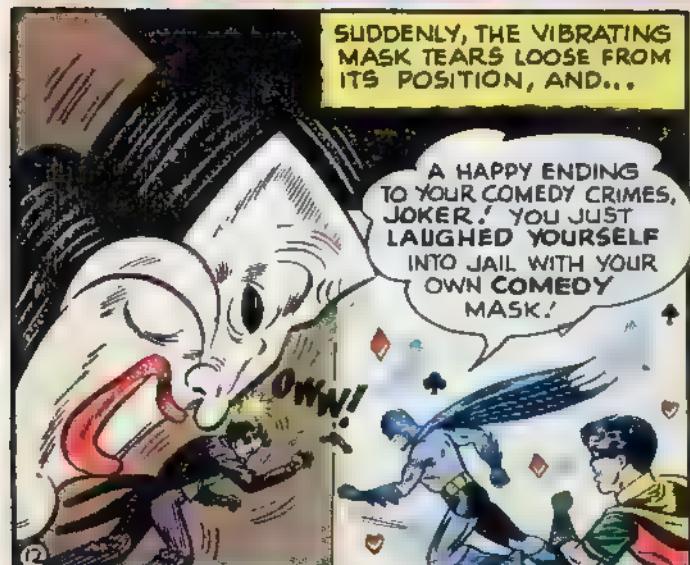
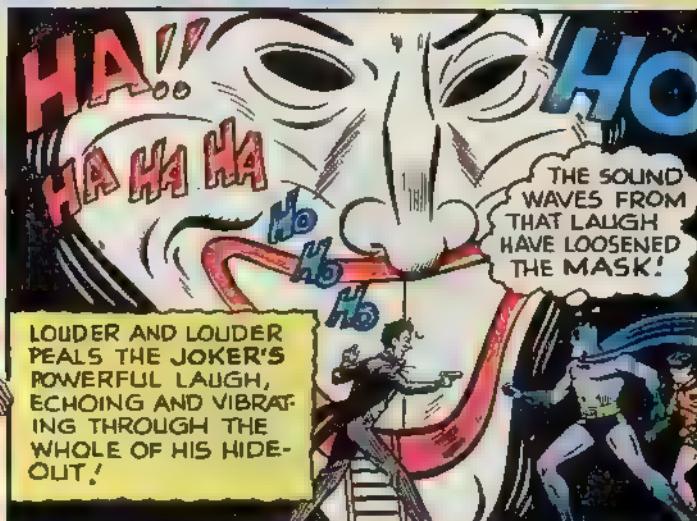
I'M GOING TO LEAD YOU TO TWO DOORS, BATMAN—ONE LEADS TO FREEDOM—ONE TO DOOM! TAKE YOUR PICK, BATMAN—but MAKE SURE YOU PICK THE RIGHT DOOR! HA-HA!







THEN, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN EMERGE FROM THE CELL WITH THE JOKER, HE SUDDENLY SNAKES OUT OF THEIR GRASP, AND...



# Get Your New FUNNY FACE Cut-Out Masks

KIDS! NO MONEY! NO WAITING!  
GET NIFTY MASKS FROM BACKS OF  
KELLOGG'S SHREDDED WHEAT PACKAGES!



GIVE A PLAY  
WEAR TO PARTIES  
SURPRISE YOUR FAMILY

EXCITEMENTS! FUN!...collect, save,  
swap new FUNNY FACES! Watch for  
all 6 on package backs of Kellogg's  
Shredded Wheat. No money! No  
waiting! Just cut an amusing

FUNNY FACE right off the package.  
Wear it right away. Be first to  
start this new fad in your neighbor-hood!

100% WHOLE WHEAT! 15 GENEROUS BISCUITS

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SIZED TO FIT THE BOWL  
TASTY-TOASTY-DELICIOUS

*Kellogg's*  
**SHREDDED  
WHEAT**



WATCH FOR DOUBLE PRIZE PACKAGES!  
(1) FUNNY FACE mask printed on back of Kellogg's  
Shredded Wheat box;  
(2) DECAL TRANSFER color picture inside of package.  
30 exciting decal designs to collect. Get 'em all!!



FEARLESS  
FRANK

GRANDMA



DAISY



DESPERATE  
DAN



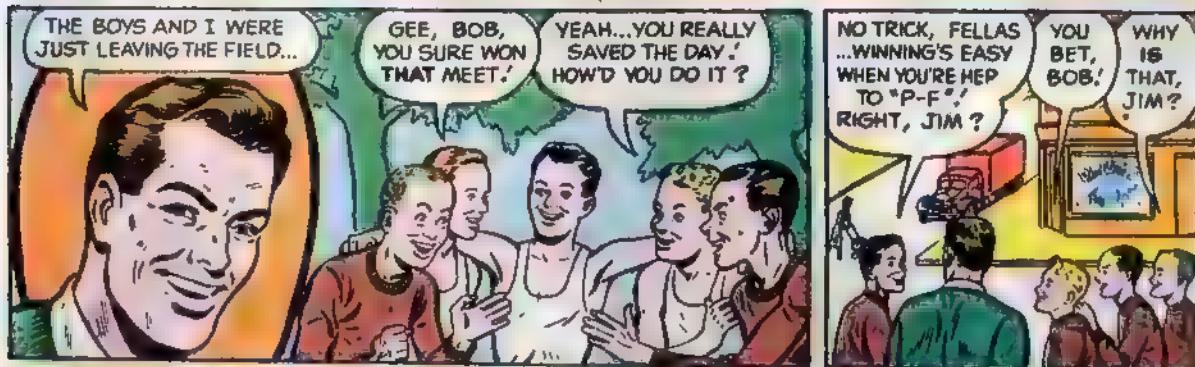
GRANDPA



GRANDMA

# LIGHTNING SPEED...HEROIC DEED!

ANOTHER JIM WISE "P-F" SPORTS STORY



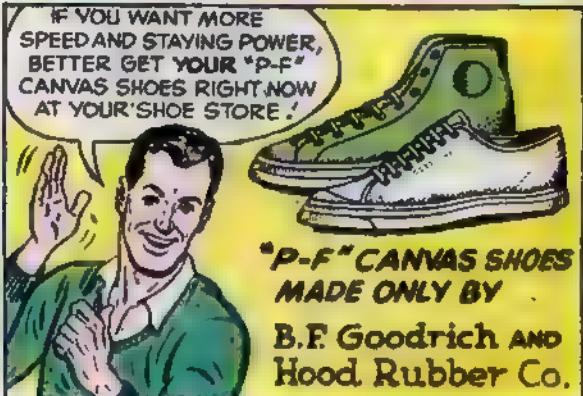
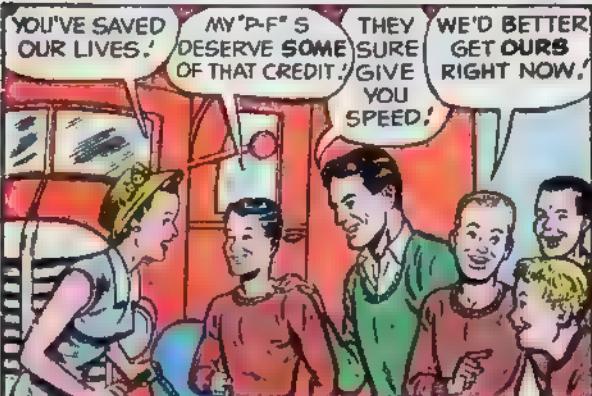
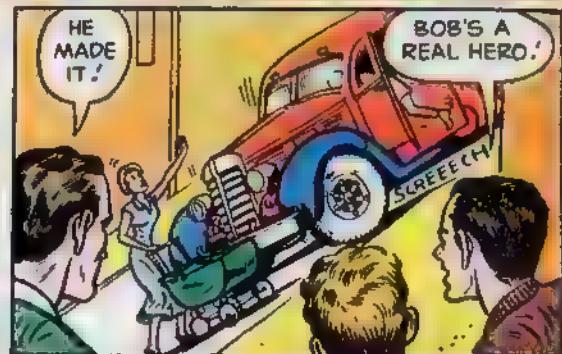
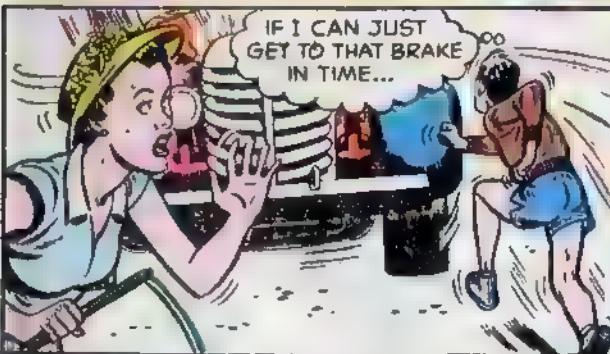
WHAT JIM TOLD THE BOYS ABOUT "P-F" HERE'S WHY "P-F" GIVES YOU MORE STAYING POWER, SPEEDS UP YOUR GAME, MAKES YOU A BETTER ATHLETE:

1. THIS RIGID WEDGE KEEPS THE BONES OF THE FOOT IN THEIR NATURAL, NORMAL POSITION.

2. THIS SPONGE RUBBER CUSHION PROTECTS THE SENSITIVE AREA OF THE FOOT.



"P-F" MEANS POSTURE FOUNDATION





# BATMAN

## WITH

# ROBIN

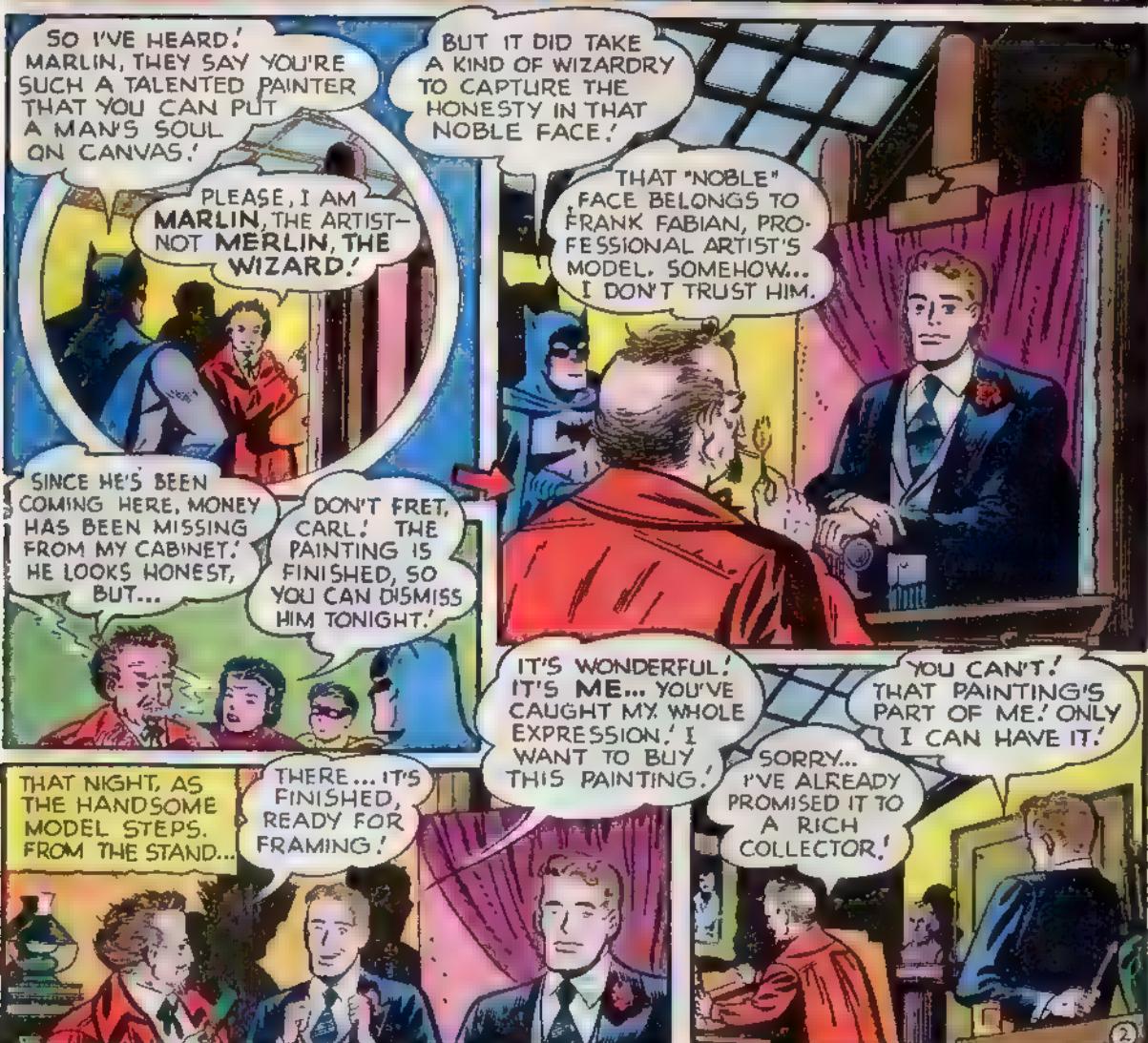
THE BOY WONDER



CAN A PAINTED FACE ON CANVAS AGE AND  
CHANGE LIKE THE FLESH OF A MAN?  
CAN BRUSH STROKES SHOW A MAN'S  
TRUE SOUL AND CONSCIENCE?  
BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND OUT  
WHEN THEY INVESTIGATE THE  
MOST BIZARRE MYSTERY OF THEIR  
CAREERS AND COME FACE TO  
FACE WITH...

**THE  
PORTRAIT of DOOM!**







ABRUPTLY, FABIAN'S INNOCENT FEATURES ARE TWISTED BY A MURDEROUS RAGE...



YOU... YOU MAY DECEIVE THE WORLD WITH YOUR HARMLESS FACE, BUT YOUR PORTRAIT WILL SHOW YOUR REAL SELF... YOUR EVIL SOUL! AS YOU COMMIT EVIL, YOUR PORTRAIT WILL REVEAL IT!



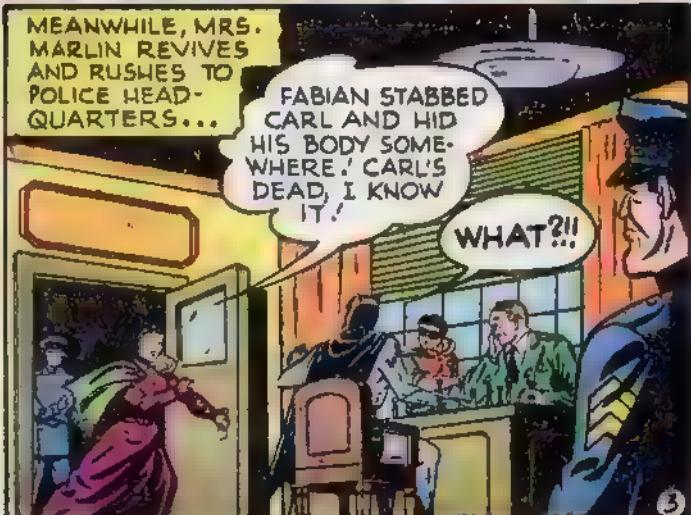
UNKNOWN TO FABIAN, MRS. MARLIN OVERHEARS EVERYTHING FROM AN ADJOINING ROOM...



BUT AS FABIAN FLEES, ONLY THE STARING MOON SEES A HAND REACH FROM THE SWIFT RIVER...



MEANWHILE, MRS. MARLIN REVIVES AND RUSHES TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS...



WHAT?!!

BUT AFTERWARD, IN HIS GARRET, FABIAN DENIES ANY KNOWLEDGE OF MARLIN'S DISAPPEARANCE!



MUCH LATER, FABIAN LAUGHS WITH SAVAGE GLEE...

I'VE GOTTED AWAY WITH MURDER BECAUSE OF MY FACE! HA! HA! WHY SHOULD I WORK FOR MONEY WHEN I CAN STEAL AND BE THOUGHT INNOCENT? MY FACE IS MY FORTUNE!

HA! HA!

SUDDENLY, FABIAN HESITATES BEFORE HIS PORTRAIT, PUZZLED...

STRANGE! THE EXPRESSION LOOKS CHANGED! THERE SEEMS TO BE CRUELTY IN THE MOUTH... CUNNING IN THE EYES! AGH... IT MUST BE A TRICK OF THE LIGHT!

THE SIMPLE, HONEST FEATURES OF FABIAN'S FACE SEEM TO REBLIKE HIS ACCUSERS...

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THIS MAN COULDN'T KILL ANYONE. BE-SIDES, WE'VE NO EVIDENCE... NO CASE AGAINST HIM!

DON'T BE FOOLED BY HIS INNOCENT FACE! HE'S A MONSTER!



AS FABIAN LEAVES, HE IS TRAILED BY TWO MANHUNTERS WHO ARE NOT YET CONVINCED OF HIS INNOCENCE...

LET'S KEEP AN EYE ON BABYFACE!

IT'S OPENING NIGHT AT THE OPERA. HE'S JOINING THAT FIRST-NIGHTER CROWD!



LIKE A GIGANTIC BAT WITH FLARING WINGS, THE BATMAN SCALES THE OPERA HOUSE'S FIRE ESCAPE...

THIS WILL TAKE US BACKSTAGE! WE'LL BE ABLE TO WATCH EVERYTHING FROM THERE!



SUDDENLY, SHARP STEEL FLASHES...

OH... A SWORD CANE, EH? THE 'TOREADOR' WON'T MIND MY BORROWING HIS ESPADA TO FENCE WITH YOU!



THE ENTANGLING CAPE DELAYS THEM JUST LONG ENOUGH...

DID YOU SEE A MASKED MAN RUN OUT OF HERE?

HUH? GOSH, NO! I GOT ENOUGH TO DO GETTIN' THIS SCENERY I MOVED!

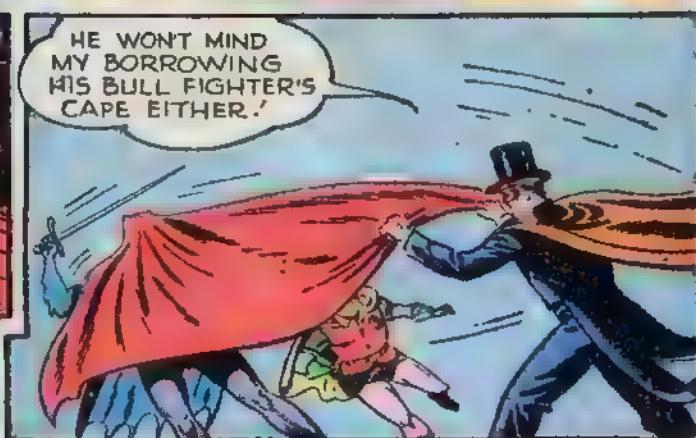


THE CALL TO ACTION IS SWIFT, FOR MASKED FABIAN IS ALSO BACKSTAGE, CLAWING AT THE OPERA STAR'S PEARL NECKLACE!

AND WE'LL TAKE YOU!



HE WON'T MIND MY BORROWING HIS BULL FIGHTER'S CAPE EITHER!



LATER, THEY DISCOVER HOW THE GETAWAY WAS MADE!

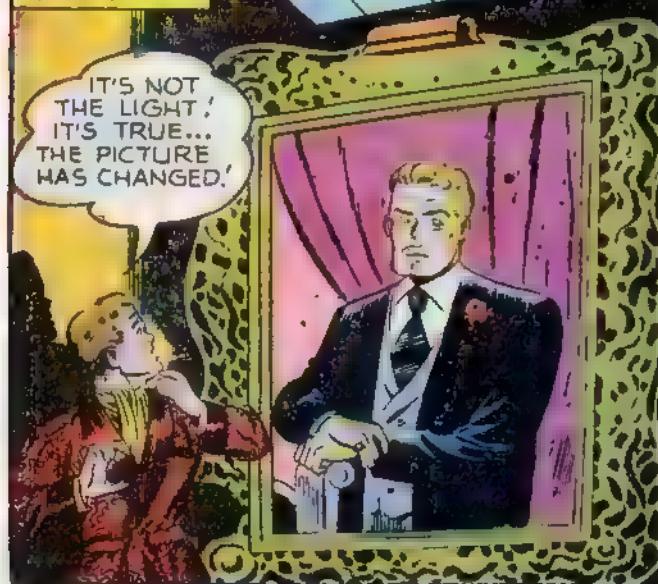
LOOK... THE MASKED BANDIT'S CLOTHES! HE GOT OUT IN ANOTHER DISGUISE! GOLLY... THOSE STAGE HANDS... HE MUST'VE BEEN ONE OF THEM!

HMM... I WONDER IF FABIAN WAS THE BANDIT? OTHER MEN HERE TONIGHT WORE CLOTHES LIKE THIS.





THE NEXT MORNING,  
FABIAN'S EYES FALL  
ON HIS PORTRAIT  
WITH GROWING  
HORROR...



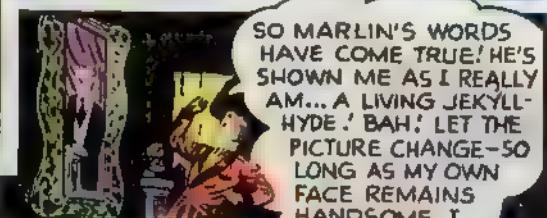
ONLY THEN DOES  
HE RECALL MARLIN'S  
LAST WORDS ...



YOU MAY DECEIVE THE  
WORLD WITH YOUR HARM-  
LESS FACE, BUT YOUR PORTRAIT  
WILL SHOW YOUR REAL SELF...  
YOUR EVIL SOUL! AS YOU  
COMMIT EVIL, YOUR POR-  
TRAIT WILL REVEAL IT!



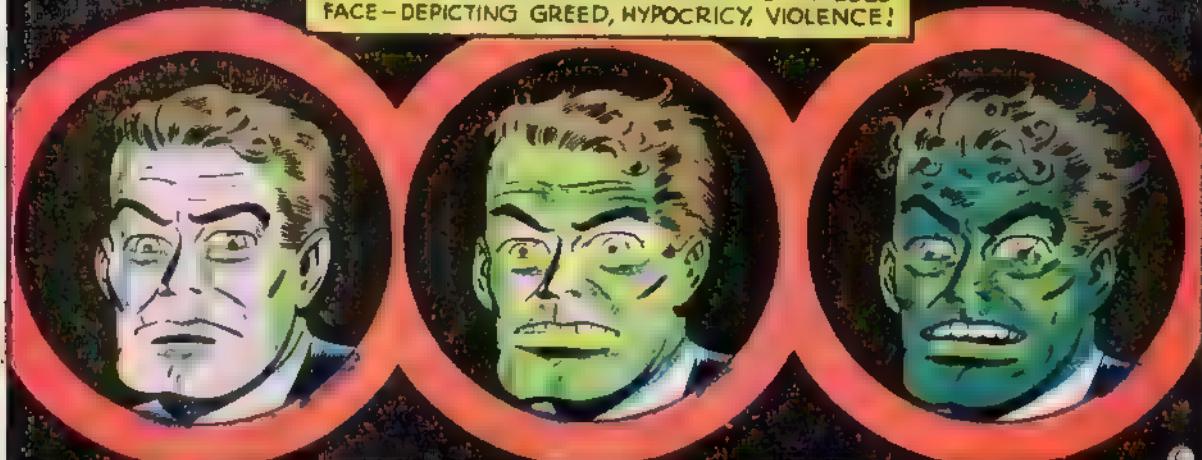
WHEN I KILLED MARLIN, THE  
MOUTH GREW CRUEL... THE EYES  
TURNED CUNNING! NOW, AFTER  
THE ROBBERY, NEW LINES OF EVIL  
APPEARED! YES... EVERY TIME I  
COMMIT A CRIME, THE PORTRAIT  
WILL SHOW IT-THOUGH MY  
OWN FACE IS UNCHANGED!



IN DEFiance OF THE  
PORTRAIT, FABIAN  
COMMITs NEW  
CRIMES OF  
VIOLENCE...



AND WITH EVERY VIOLENT CRIME, MORE  
LINES OF EVIL SEAR THE PORTRAIT'S HIDEOUS  
FACE-DEPICTING GREED, HYPOCRISY, VIOLENCE!



BUT THE PORTRAIT IS LIKE A LIVING MIRROR OF FABIAN'S OWN CONSCIENCE, AND AT LAST...

I CAN'T STAND THE WAY IT HAUNTS ME! I MUST GET RID OF IT! I'LL SELL IT FOR A GOOD PRICE! IT'S A GENUINE MARLIN.

AS FABIAN LEAVES, HE IS AGAIN WATCHED!

THIS IS A NEW DEVELOPMENT! WE'D BETTER STICK CLOSE TO HIM!



EVERY ART DEALER VIEWS THE PAINTING WITH LOATHING ...

UGH! IT'S A FOUL THING! NO ONE WOULD EVER BUY SUCH A PAINTING! TAKE IT OUT OF HERE!

AN EXCLAMATION OF HORROR BURSTS FROM THE MANHUNTER'S LIPS AS HE VIEWS THE FRIGHTFUL PAINTED FACE LEERING AT HIM!

WHAT?! IT'S YOUR PORTRAIT... BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO IT? IT'S CHANGED INTO THE FACE OF A MONSTER!

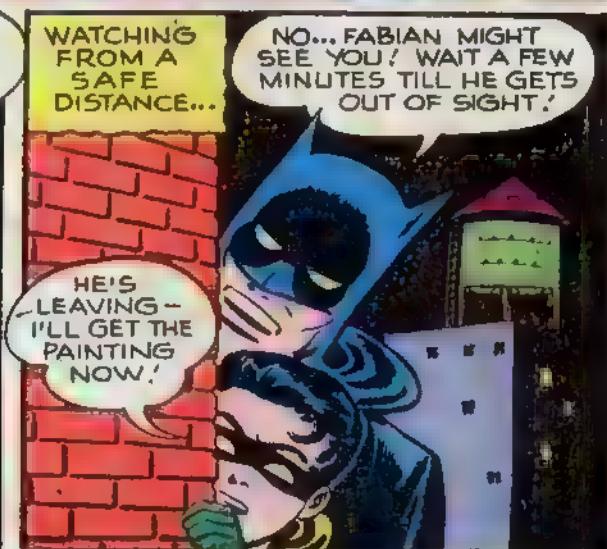


MAYBE I'LL BUY YOUR PORTRAIT, FABIAN! LET ME SEE IT!

SO DISTURBED IS FABIAN THAT BITTER WORDS SPILL FROM HIS LIPS...

MARLIN AND I... WE... WE QUARRELED! MARLIN CURSED ME! HE SAID I WAS EVIL AND THAT THE PORTRAIT WOULD SHOW IT! AND NOW THE PORTRAIT CHANGES EVERY DAY! IT'S DRIVING ME MAD.





SUDDENLY, A FINGER OF LIGHT MARKS AN AWESOME SYMBOL IN THE NIGHT SKY!



THE BAT-SIGNAL! POLICE HEADQUARTERS IS PAGING US! LET'S GO!

AT HEADQUARTERS, THEY ARE TOLD SHOCKING NEWS!

WE JUST FISHED MARLIN'S BODY OUT OF THE RIVER! HE MUST'VE BEEN IN THERE FOR DAYS!

WHAT?!

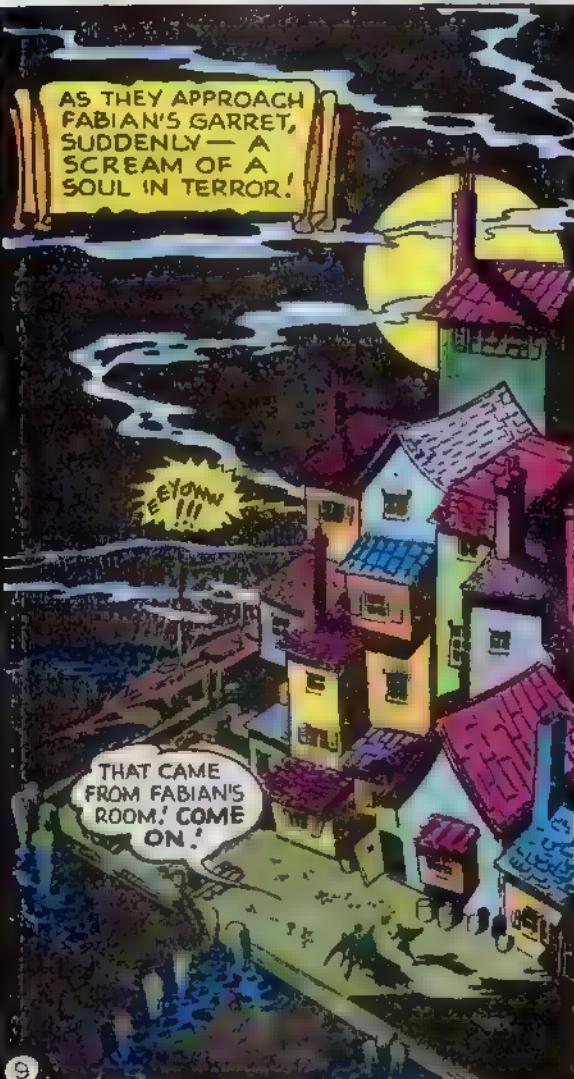


IF MARLIN IS DEAD — THEN HOW CAN WE EXPLAIN THE CHANGING PORTRAIT?

PAINTS CAN'T COME TO LIFE! THERE MUST BE A TRICK TO THIS! LET'S QUESTION FABIAN AGAIN!



AS THEY APPROACH FABIAN'S GARRET, SUDDENLY — A SCREAM OF A SOUL IN TERROR!



LOOK... THE PORTRAIT... IT'S COME BACK!

HE'S FAINTED!

SUDDENLY BATMAN STUDIES THE FLOOR...

AH! SO I WASN'T FAR WRONG, AFTER ALL! ROBIN, IF WE WAIT, WE CAN EXPECT A VISITOR!



SOON AFTER...  
FURTIVE FOOTSTEPS  
...AND INTO THE  
ROOM STEPS A  
FAMILIAR FIGURE...

HE'S STILL IN A DEAD  
FAINT! GOOD! WOULDN'T  
HE BE SURPRISED TO  
KNOW I'VE BEEN PAINTING  
THE "CHANGES" ON  
HIS PORTRAIT  
EVERY DAY!



YOU BROUGHT  
THE PAINTING BACK!  
YOU WERE TRAILING  
FABIAN, TOO! ONLY  
YOU GOT THE  
PAINTING BEFORE  
WE DID!



I KNEW A JURY  
WOULD NEVER CON-  
VICT FABIAN BECAUSE  
OF THE LACK OF EVIDENCE  
AND HIS INNOCENT  
FACE, SO I TRIED TO  
MAKE HIM CONFESS  
THROUGH HIS CON-  
SCIENCE! BUT I'VE  
FAILED...

NOT YET! YOUR  
PLAN IS A GOOD  
ONE, BUT IT DOESN'T  
GO FAR ENOUGH!



SOMETIME LATER,  
FABIAN REGAINS  
CONSCIOUSNESS...

OHH... MY  
HEAD! NOW I  
REMEMBER... THE  
PAINTING... IT  
CAME BACK!

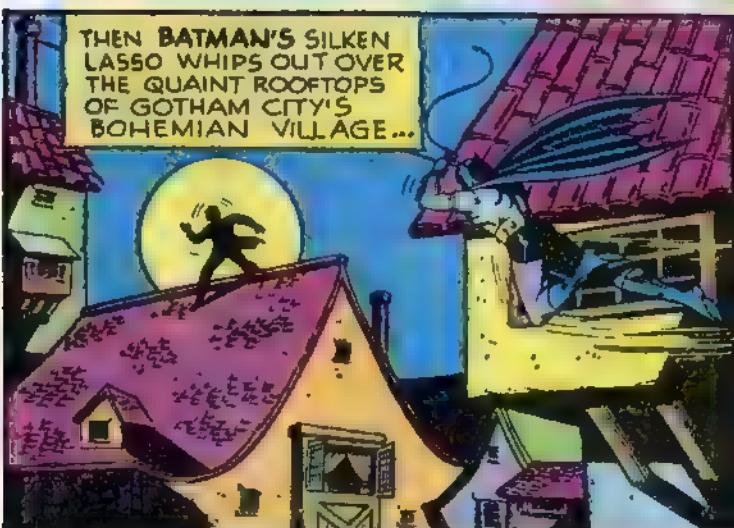


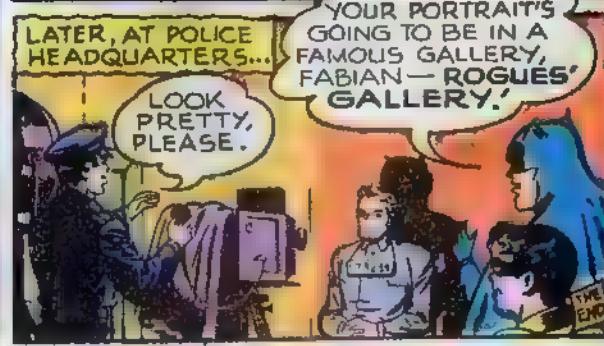
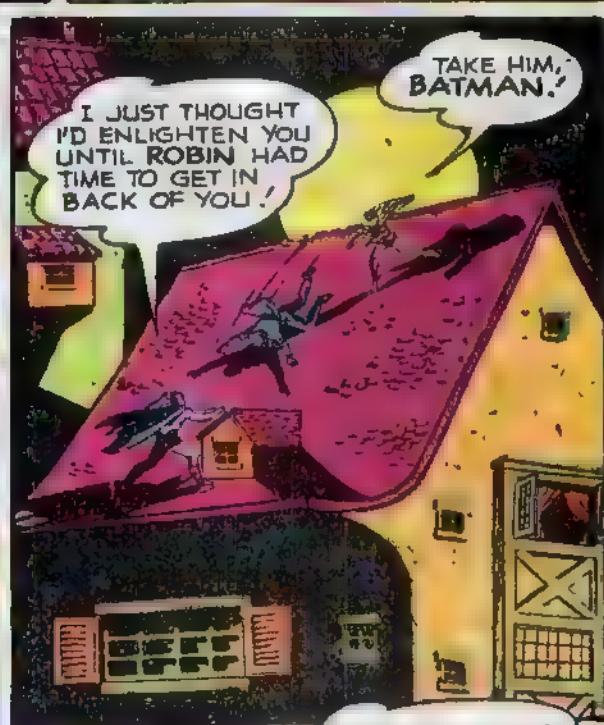
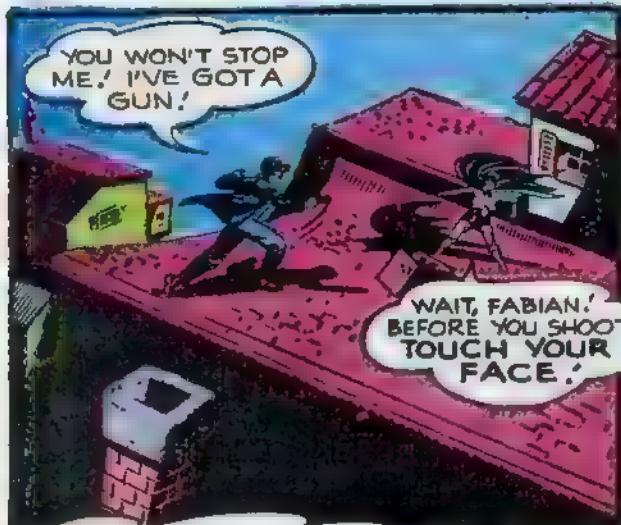
THEN WITH A CRY  
OF AGONY, FABIAN  
RECOILS AS HE  
SEES HIS OWN FACE  
IN THE MIRROR!

AGHHH!  
MY FACE... MY FACE!  
THE EVIL HAS GONE  
FROM THE PORTRAIT'S  
FACE TO MY OWN  
FACE!

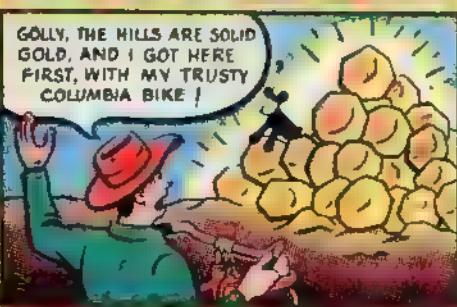
WHAT...?  
THE PORTRAIT...  
IT'S LIKE IT  
USED TO BE!







# DAYDREAM MIKE and his WONDERFUL BIKE!



REMEMBER! A BIKE BY COLUMBIA IS NOT ONLY HANDSOMER, FINE, BUT A BETTER BUILT BIKE.... AND WHEN A BIKE IS BUILT BETTER IT LASTS LONGER...PEDALS EASIER...GOES FASTER...AND GETS YOU THERE, FRESHER, THAN "POKEY" HARDER-TO-PUSH BIKES.

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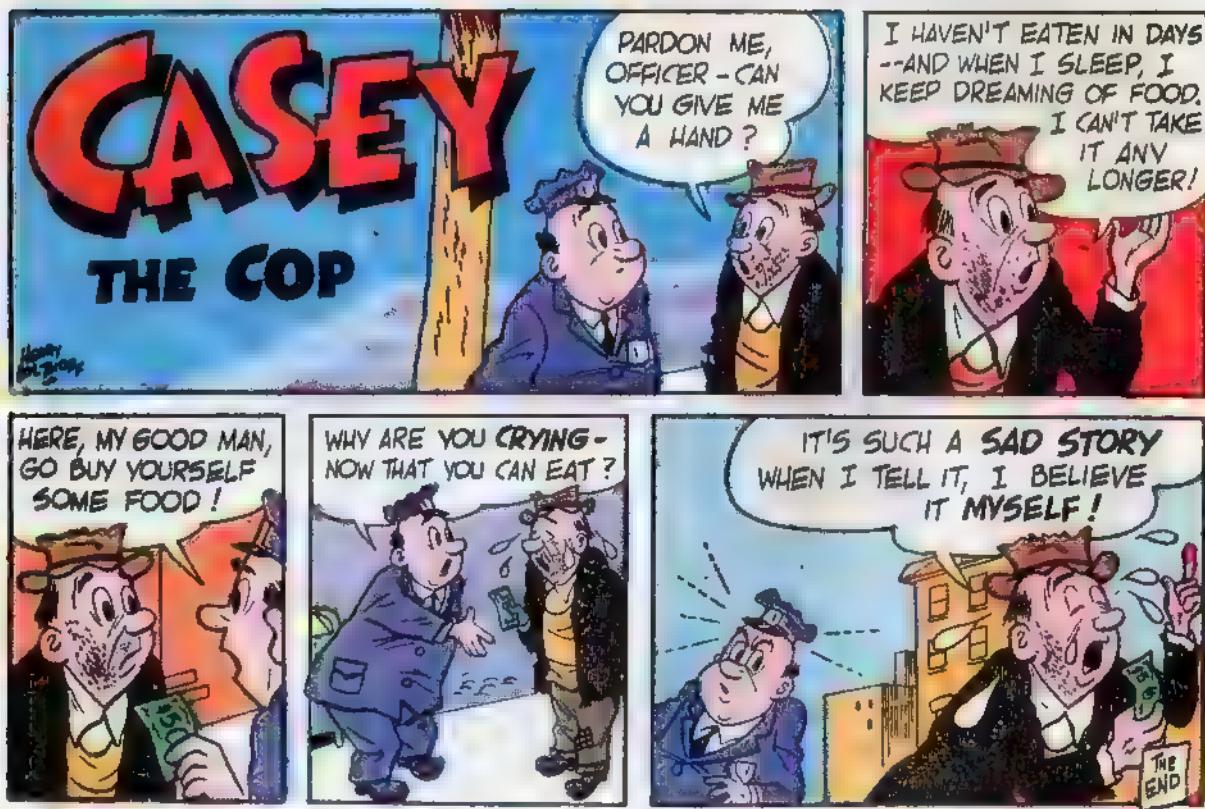
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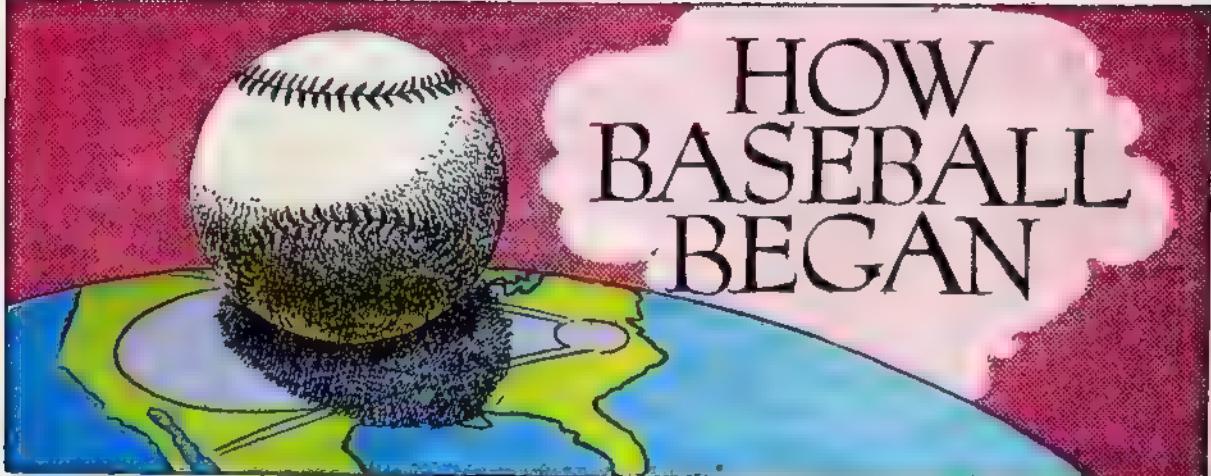


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WONDER WOMAN





# HOW BASEBALL BEGAN

IT was a bright summer day in 1846, and the Elysian Fields, a former cricket and picnic grounds in Hoboken, N. J., was the scene for a historical event in sports.

Why Hoboken? The real reason, if any, does not seem to be on record. The best guess is that Hoboken was picked as a "neutral" ground because the teams were both from the neighboring metropolis of New York.

The players were the Knickerbockers, one of the most important groups in early baseball, and the "New York Nine," a group of players who challenged the Knickerbockers. The New York Nine, of course, also came from New York.

There was excitement in the air, and a feeling of competition which was the start of what eventually became the greatest competitive feeling in the country—baseball rivalry!

The Knickerbockers were good players. Their team was an active one, having played many a game within its own club. At that time, "teams" didn't play outsiders; they played members of their own clubs, most times each "team" being chosen more or less at random, as we choose sides today in sandlot ball games. It was because they felt that they were too good simply to show their talents to their own group that they

were seeking competition from the outside.

The "New York Nine," comparatively, was a young ball club, but a very up-and-coming one, as they were to prove by winning this game.

The field was surrounded by a crowd that must have numbered several thousand. There was no grandstand, and no bleachers, but the "bleacherites" were there just the same.

The game was played on a "square," the original term for what later became the diamond. The layout of the home plate and three bases, supplanting the four and five bases previously used, was devised a year before by a committee appointed by the Knickerbockers, and headed by an Alexander Cartwright. The position of the bases, the pitcher's box, home plate, and the fielders remains today practically the same as it was then. The shortstop now plays a bit farther back than he did then; the pitcher's box is a few feet farther from the plate, which at that time was round shape.

As the pitcher tossed the ball toward the batter, the crowd roared just as it does today—to swat it out of the field, or to have the batter fan!

The batter's hands grappled a "bat" somewhat square at one end, and rounding outward toward a bulkier body. Today's bats

are practically the same, except that the handle is more rounded.

And as the fielders scurried to pick up the hot grounder or the long fly, there wasn't a glove on any hand. Mitts were available, even then, but only sissies used them. Top-flight players used their bare hands. Even the catcher used no glove, and of course, no mask.

But every player on the field sported a moustache!

Look what happens as the batter races for his base, touches the first sack, and then starts for second! The infielder, running up close to the infield to pick up a well-batted ball, grabs the ball and throws it, not to second base, but at the runner! He "plugs" him! The runner is out!

That's something you don't see any more. The practice of "plugging" a runner sometimes became dangerous, because many of them were hit on the head, or in the face, or otherwise injured by such throws. Of course, it was a pretty exciting part of the game, but it gave way to the better method of throwing the ball to the base before the runner reached it, in order to make an "out."

There are other things that are different today. For example, the bases were not tied down. As a result, some "smart" basemen would kick the base out of position, and thus trap a runner who failed to tag the base. This was overcome by having the bases fastened to pegs in the ground.

The matter of gloves, of course, is quite a change. No ball player would think of going out on the field without the proper glove for his position. Perhaps this is necessary now, because the ball has become harder, faster, and the speed of the game has increased. But even to this day, the stitching on a baseball is done by hand. No machine has yet been devised that can do that job as well.

Although you hear much about whether

the ball is more lively from season to season, basically, baseballs have been made the same way for many years. The center is composed of cork and rubber. (This is what makes the ball lively.) To this center is added a double layer of soft rubber, about a quarter inch thick. Then yarn is woven all around this, followed by a coating of rubber cement, and a layer of white cotton thread. Then comes another coating of rubber cement, and the sewing on of the cover, made from a select part of hide.

There's a difference in the scoring too. In the beginning, the first team to score 21 "aces" or runs, won the game. Now, of course the game is set up in innings, and the highest scorer at the end of nine innings is the winner.

The rule whereby the batter was out if the ball was caught on the first bounce was also abolished, and the ball had to be caught on the fly to become an out. The "called" strike was another addition to the rules, about ten years after the first game. Up to that time, the batter could pick his pitches as he liked them.

The umpire rule has also been changed to the present system of one final arbitrator (with, of course, additional umps for bases in the majors, as well as the better minors). Originally, each side had its own umpire, and a third man, the referee, usually had to break the ties—because each umpire, of course, favored his own side.

It was from beginnings like this that baseball grew to be our national game. It has taken a lot from the game of cricket; a lot from a game called "rounders," and picked up a thing or two from various games which our forefathers brought to this country. But though its origins seem to be clouded by doubt on many points, this point is indisputable—baseball is our national pastime. It helps build character; it helps build bodies; it is entertainment for participant and spectator alike; and it's a grand game.



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KEY CHAIN

BRACELET

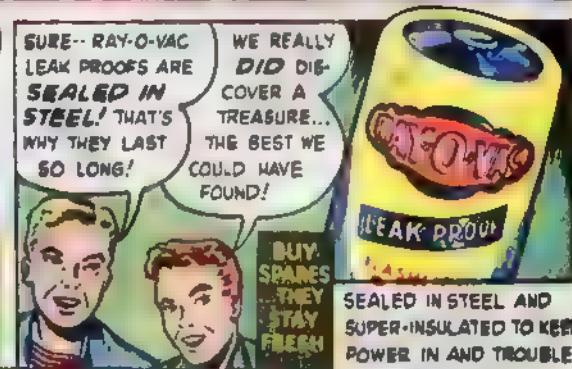
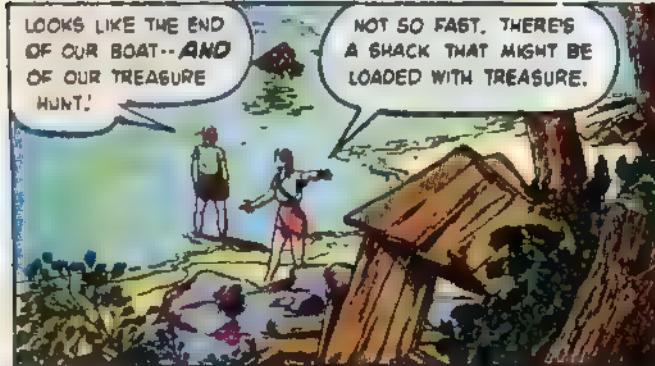
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Mail this coupon, with your name and  
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... and get Special Folder that shows  
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PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS IN MARGIN BELOW

# ADVENTURE OF THE SHIPWRECKED PIRATES



LOOK FOR  
RAY-O-VAC  
LEAK PROOF  
THEY'RE GUARANTEED



SEALED IN STEEL AND SUPER-INSULATED TO KEEP POWER IN AND TROUBLE OUT. GUARANTEED: A NEW FLASHLIGHT IF YOURS IS DAMAGED BY RAY-O-VAC LEAK PROOF BATTERIES.

BATMAN

# BATMAN

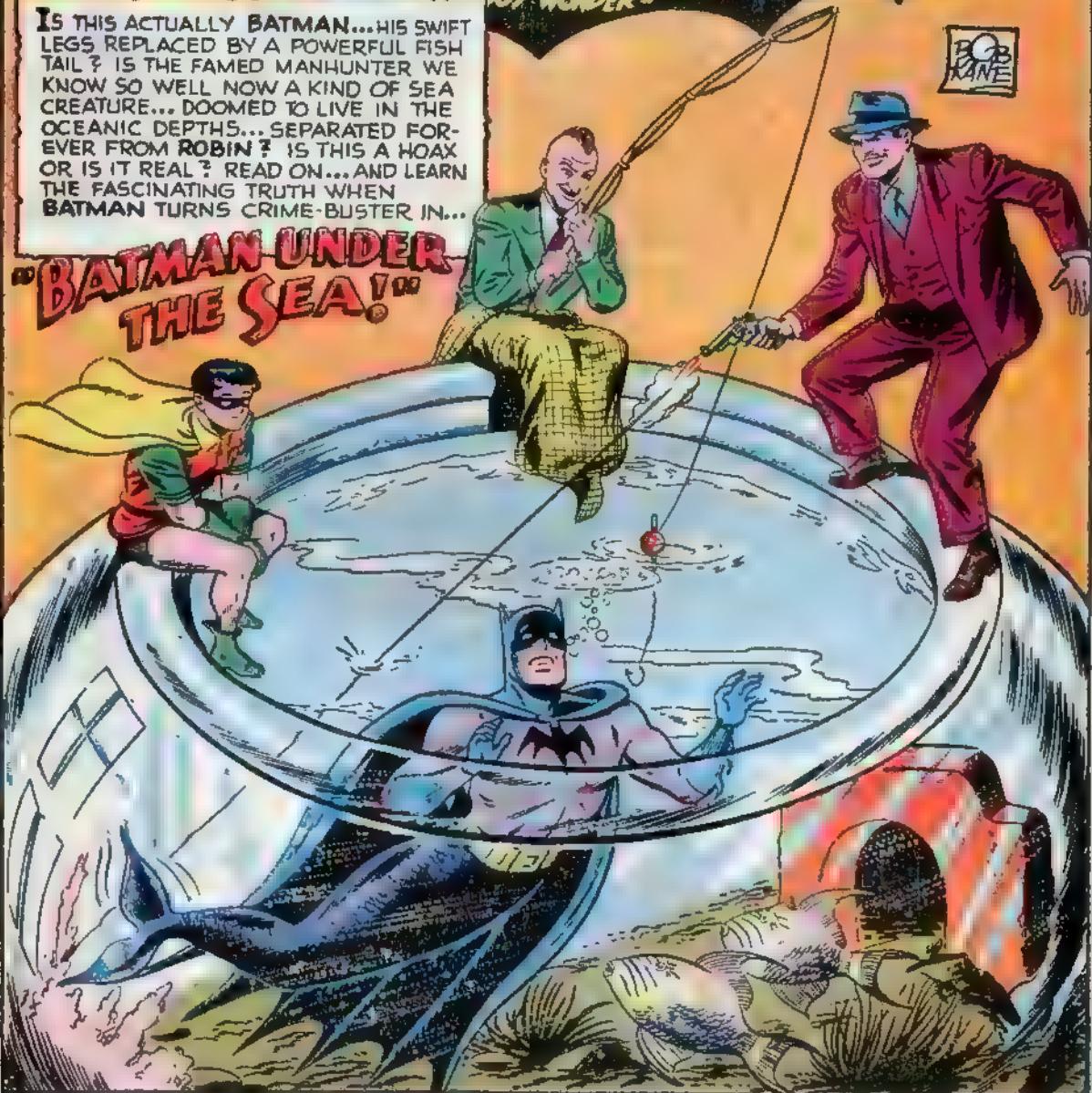
WITH  
**ROBIN**

BOY WONDER

IS THIS ACTUALLY BATMAN... HIS SWIFT LEGS REPLACED BY A POWERFUL FISH TAIL? IS THE FAMED MANHUNTER WE KNOW SO WELL NOW A KIND OF SEA CREATURE... DOOMED TO LIVE IN THE OCEANIC DEPTHS... SEPARATED FOREVER FROM ROBIN? IS THIS A HOAX OR IS IT REAL? READ ON... AND LEARN THE FASCINATING TRUTH WHEN BATMAN TURNS CRIME-BUSTER IN...

**"BATMAN UNDER THE SEA!"**

BOB KANE



ONE AFTERNOON AS BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON DINE AT THE HOTEL DOLPHIN, FAMED FOR ITS SEA FOOD...

BRUCE, LOOK AT THE ODD FACE OF THAT PARALYZED MAN BEING WHEELED IN!

HMM! HE DOES HAVE QUEER FEATURES, DICK! ALMOST LIKE A FISH...



THEIR MINDS TRAINED TO SEEK OUT CLUES, BRUCE AND DICK AMUSE THEMSELVES BY EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE ODD CUSTOMER...

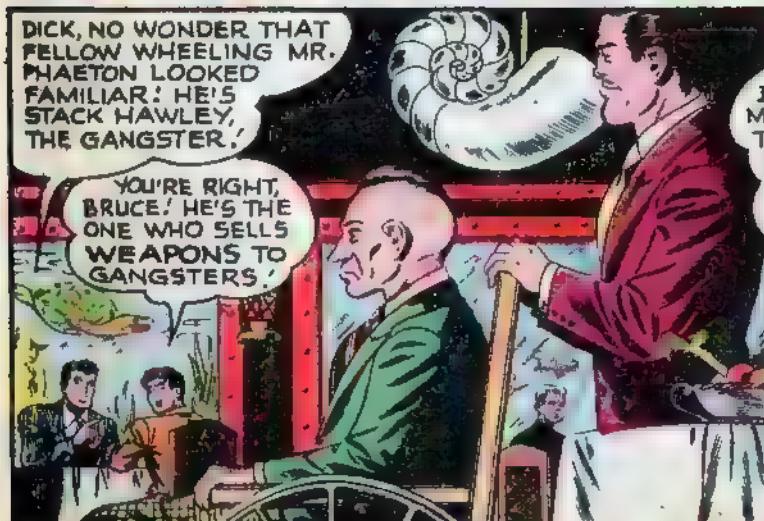
THE WAY MR. PHAETON-OR WHATEVER HIS NAME IS-GULPS DOWN THAT FOOD, YOU'D THINK HE WAS A FISH OUT OF WATER!

MAYBE HE'S A MERMAN! HE COULD BE USING THAT BLANKET TO HIDE HIS FISH TAIL!  
HA! HA!



DICK, NO WONDER THAT FELLOW WHEELING MR. PHAETON LOOKED FAMILIAR: HE'S STACK HAWLEY, THE GANGSTER.

YOU'RE RIGHT, BRUCE! HE'S THE ONE WHO SELLS WEAPONS TO GANGSTERS!



SALT WATER, SIR?  
ARE YOU SURE-?

WAITER, I WANT A BIG PLATE OF SHRIMP... OYSTERS... AND CLAMS! AND BRING ME A GLASS OF SALT WATER!

YOU HEARD MR. PHAETON! HE WANTS A DRINK O' SALT WATER!

THEN, AS THE MAN FINISHES HIS SEA-FOOD PLATTER, SUDDENLY...

OH, SIR! YOU'RE IN LUCK! YOU FOUND A PEARL IN ONE OF YOUR OYSTERS!

ANOTHER PEARL? I HAVE 50 MANY OF THEM! KEEP IT AS A TIP!



SWIFTLY, BRUCE QUESTIONS THE WAITER ABOUT MR. PHAETON...

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIM, MR. WAYNE-NOBODY DOES, EXCEPT THAT HIS LEGS ARE PARALYZED... HE LIVES IN THIS HOTEL WHENEVER HE'S IN TOWN... AND HE INSISTS ON SEA WATER FOR HIS BATHS!



HE DRINKS SALT WATER AND BATHES IN SEA WATER! I'M ALMOST BEGINNING TO BELIEVE HE IS A MERMAN!

DON'T LET YOUR FANTASTIC IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH YOU! WHAT PUZZLES ME IS WHY STACK IS WORKING FOR PHAETON!

THAT NIGHT, AS MR. PHAETON IS WHEELED FROM THE HOTEL, HE IS WATCHED BY TWO CAPE MANHUNTERS - BATMAN AND ROBIN!

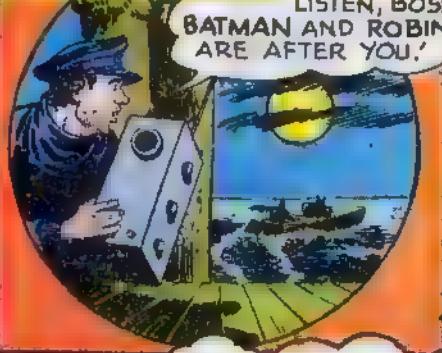
HE'S BEING WHEELED INTO THAT SPEED-BOAT!

WE'LL HIRE A BOAT AND TRAIL THEM FROM A DISTANCE!



BUT THE MAN WHO RENTS THE SPEEDBOATS IS IN PHAETON'S PAY AND QUICKLY CONTACTS HIS BOSS BY WALKIE-TALKIE!

LISTEN, BOSS! BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE AFTER YOU!



SOON AFTER, AT PHAETON'S COMMAND, A DECK GUN THUNDERS, HURLING A SHELL THROUGH THE BATMAN'S BOAT!

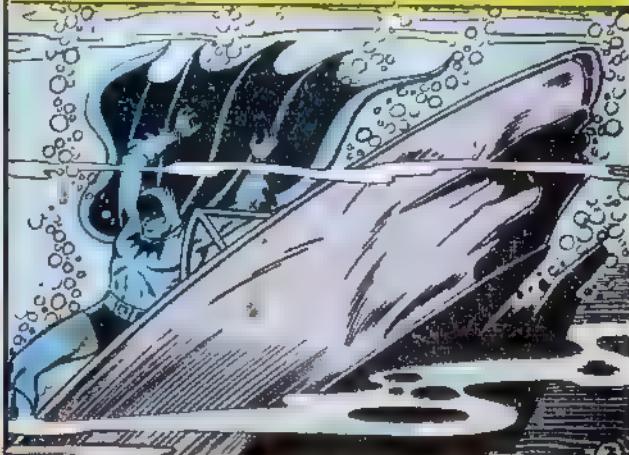
GRAB THAT LIFE PRESERVER AND JUMP OVERBOARD! I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!



I COULDN'T TELL ROBIN OR HE'D HAVE REFUSED TO LEAVE ME... BUT HIS IS THE ONLY GOOD LIFE PRESERVER! THE REMAINING ONE WAS WRECKED BY THE SHELL.



SUDDENLY, ANOTHER SHELL BLUDGEONS THE CRAFT AND THE BOAT BEGINS TO SINK, DRAWING THE UNCONSCIOUS BATMAN UNDER THE WAVES!





AFTER WHAT SEEMS HOURS LATER...

HE'S RE-GAINING CONSCIOUSNESS!

OH...WHAT...MY COWL...PULLED BACK! STRANGERS LOOKING AT MY FACE!

DON'T WORRY, BATMAN... YOUR SECRET IDENTITY IS SAFE WITH US!



SUDDENLY BATMAN STARES WILD-EYED, DISBELIEVING WHAT HE SEES, YET SOMEHOW KNOWING IT IS ALL TERRIBLY REAL!

YOU...YOU'RE A MERMAID! YOU'RE ALL FISH PEOPLE!



THEN BATMAN IS AWARE OF A NEW SENSATION!

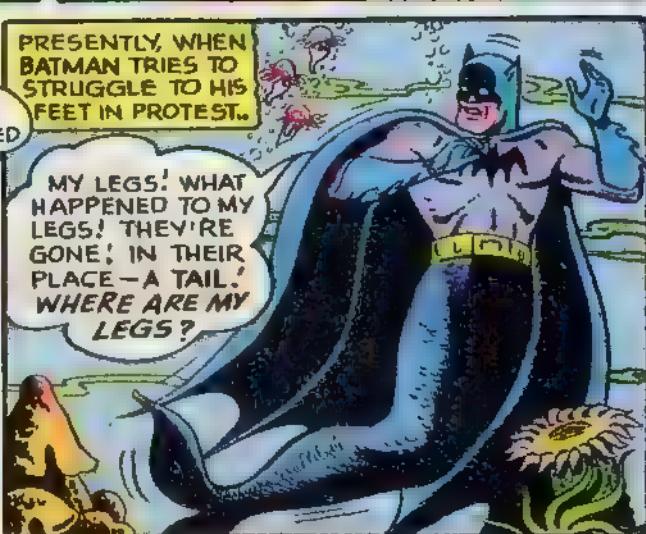
I'M BREATHING! I'M UNDER WATER... YET I'M BREATHING! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

OH, YES, IT'S POSSIBLE— BECAUSE I, THETA OF THE SCIENCE COUNCIL, OPERATED ON YOU AND GAVE YOU GILLS!



PRESENTLY, WHEN BATMAN TRIES TO STRUGGLE TO HIS FEET IN PROTEST.

MY LEGS! WHAT HAPPENED TO MY LEGS! THEY'RE GONE; IN THEIR PLACE—A TAIL! WHERE ARE MY LEGS?



GIVE ME BACK MY LEGS!

YOU WERE DROWNING! WE JUST HAD TO PLACE YOU IN THE CONVERTING CHAMBER AND GIVE YOU GILLS AND A TAIL! CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND? IF WE HADN'T OPERATED, YOU'D HAVE DIED!



I'M SORRY, BUT YOU CAN NEVER LEAVE HERE! THE SEA WILL BE YOUR HOME FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE! YOU'RE A MERMAN NOW!

BATMAN, ONCE THE MOST VALIANT FIGHTER OF THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD, DOOMED NOW TO STAY FOREVER IN THE UNDERWORLD OF THE SEA!

LATER... I'LL NEVER SEE GOTHAM CITY AGAIN... THE BUSY STREETS! AND ROBIN... I'LL MISS HIM... I'M ALONE NOW... IN AN ALIEN WORLD!

FINALLY BATMAN REALIZES HE MUST MAKE THE BEST OF THE SITUATION...

AT LEAST I'M ALIVE, THANKS TO YOU! I'LL LEARN TO ADAPT MYSELF TO MY NEW LIFE!

GOOD! I'M SARIN... RULER OF THE SEA PEOPLE! THIS IS THETA, OUR LEADING SCIENTIST, EVEN THOUGH SHE IS A FEMALE!

THEN FOLLOWS A GUIDED TOUR OF THE AQUATIC COMMUNITY!

THIS IS OUR MUSEUM! HERE ARE CURIOS TAKEN FROM SUNKEN SHIPS WE FIND ON THE SEA FLOOR!

A LIFE PRESERVER FROM THE S.S. TITANIC! ALL THIS IS THE SALVAGE OF THE CENTURIES!

WE KNOW OF YOUR EXPLOITS, BATMAN, BECAUSE OF OUR LIBRARY OF BOOKS AND NEWSPAPERS COLLECTED FROM SUNKEN SHIPS! WE COAT THE PAPER WITH CHEMICALS IMPERVIOUS TO WATER!

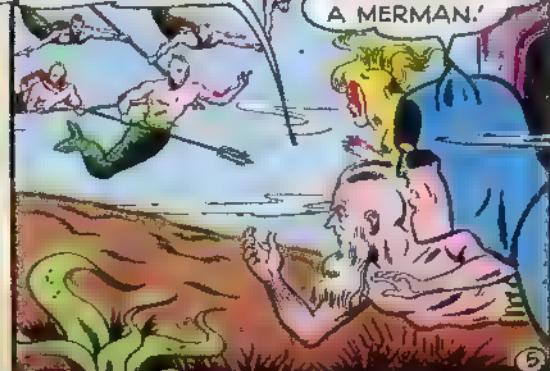
FROM NOW ON, YOU'D BETTER CALL ME BAT-MERMAN!

HERE IS GOLD TAKEN FROM SUNKEN TREASURE SHIPS! IN YOUR LAND OF AIR-BREATHERS, MEN WOULD KILL FOR SUCH WEALTH! HERE IT IS WORTHLESS, OF NO USE AT ALL!

SUDDENLY, AS THEY LEAVE THE SALVAGE MUSEUM...

THEN ROBIN'S IMAGINATION WASN'T SOUND THE ALARM. WE'RE BEING ATTACKED AGAIN BY PHAETON!

IMAGINATION WASN'T FANTASTIC, AFTER ALL! PHAETON IS A MERMAN!



EVEN AS THE CLARION CALL TO ARMS SOUNDS, A FLIP OF BAT-MERMAN'S POWERFUL TAIL HURLES HIM INTO THE MARAUDERS!

I MAY BE A MERMAN, BUT I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN TO FIGHT LIKE BATMAN!

YOU! SO THEY SAVED YOU FROM DROWNING AND MADE YOU ONE OF US! FLAME THROWERS, FORWARD!

OXY-ACETYLENE TORCHES—THE TYPE USED BY NAVY DIVERS TO REPAIR SHIPS UNDER WATER.

FLAME-THROWERS HERE? IN THE SEA?

THEN BAT-MERMAN DOES A STRANGE THING ... HE RETREATS!

LOOK! HE'S TURNED TAIL! HE'S LOST HIS COURAGE!

IT CAN'T BE TRUE! THOSE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF HIS BRAVERY COULDN'T HAVE ALL BEEN LIES!

BUT BAT-MERMAN'S RETREAT IS ONLY BATTLE STRATEGY, FOR...

AS LONG AS WE'RE FIGHTING A WAR, I'M GOING TO RECRUIT THESE JELLY FISH CALLED PORTUGUESE MAN-OF-WAR!

PRODDED FORWARD, THE JELLY FISH FURIOUSLY WHIP THEIR TENTACLES ABOUT IN THE RANKS OF PHAETON'S ARMY!

LET 'EM HAVE IT!

OWW!

YI-III!

THEY'RE WITHDRAWING! WE'VE WON...AND ALL BECAUSE YOU WERE CLEVER ENOUGH TO PROD THE JELLY FISH WITH THEIR STINGING TENTACLES!

NO WONDER YOU WERE SO ESTEEMED BY AIR-BREATHERS, BAT-MERMAN... YOU'RE WONDERFUL! (SIGH)

# KIDS! IT'S EASY TO WIN ONE OF THESE 400 FLEXY RACERS!

YOUR OWN ROLLER COASTER



GET IN THIS EASY  
GUESS-MY-  
BIRTHDAY  
CONTEST!

I'M the boy you see in the Bazooka Comics—having exciting adventures with my giant Bazooka bubble. I'd like you to be one of the 400 boys and girls to win an expensive Flexy Racer. You'll coast speedily over country roads or city streets. Steers like a motorcycle. Two-wheel brakes 'stop on a dime' with handle bar control. Swell for 'belly-whopping,' pulling friends or packages, too.

"Just fill out the coupon with your estimate of my birthday—and mail it with a Bazooka wrapper or facsimile! Hope you win!"

## FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE RULES:

1. Judge how old you think Bazooka Boy should be to appeal to greatest number of boys and girls who read comics.
2. Send Bazooka wrapper to BAZOOKA, Box No. 20, Madison Square Station, New York 10, N. Y. Send in as many entries as you please, but one Bazooka wrapper or facsimile must be sent with each.
3. One Flexy Racer will be awarded to each of the 400 entries that come closest to actual age now on file with Modern Research Bureau, N. Y. Duplicate prizes in case of ties.
4. Entries must be postmarked before September 1, 1949. For list of winners send a self addressed stamped envelope to BAZOOKA, Box No. 20, Madison Square Station, New York 10, N. Y.
5. Contest open to all residents of the U. S., its territories and possessions, except employees of Topps Chewing Gum and their advertising agency.

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KID SHOW  
Every Sat. 11 A.M.  
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Enclosed is a Bazooka wrapper or facsimile. I judge Bazooka Boy's birthday to be

19

(Month)

(Day)

(Year)

(Hour)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

ZONE \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

This contest is subject to all state and local regulations.

## WHEN BAT-MERMAN EXPLAINS ABOUT PHAETON'S LAND ACTIVITIES...

PHAETON IS A RENEGADE SCIENTIST! I'VE LEARNED HOW TO CHANGE LAND MEN INTO MERMEN... BUT OBVIOUSLY HE KNOWS THE SECRET OF DOING THE REVERSE!

THEN WHY HASN'T HE LEFT? WHY HAS HE REMAINED A MERMAN?

I THINK HE'S BEEN BUYING WEAPONS FROM STACK HAWLEY SO HE CAN RAID YOUR MUSEUM! HE WANTS THE GOLD AND PEARLS SO HE CAN LIVE ON LAND IN LUXURY! BUT HE DIDN'T GET THE TREASURE. THAT MEANS HE'LL ATTACK AGAIN!



AND PHAETON'S ATTACK COMES THAT VERY INSTANT, WITH ANOTHER WEAPON PURCHASED FROM STACK HAWLEY—DEPTH CHARGES!

OHH... THE CONCUSSION!

BOOM!



NOW THAT HE HAS THE TREASURE, HE'LL BE READY TO CONVERT HIMSELF INTO A LAND MAN! WE MUST FIND HIS HIDEOUT BEFORE THAT HAPPENS!

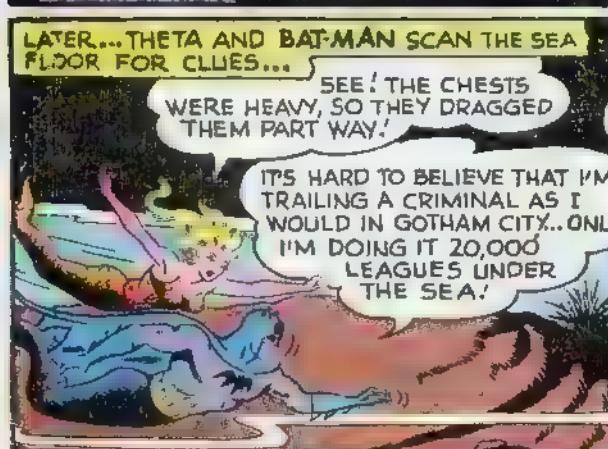
WE'LL FORM SEARCHING PARTIES. IF I FIND A CLUE, I'LL SIGNAL YOU!



LATER... THETA AND BAT-MAN SCAN THE SEA FLOOR FOR CLUES...

SEE! THE CHESTS WERE HEAVY, SO THEY DRAGGED THEM PART WAY!

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT I'M TRAILING A CRIMINAL AS I WOULD IN GOTHAM CITY... ONLY I'M DOING IT 20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA!



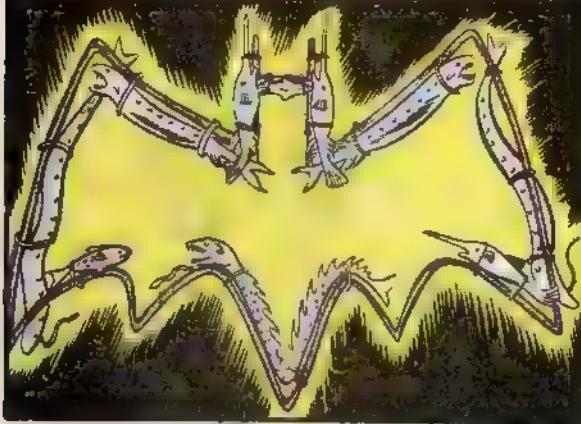
SUDDENLY, UNBELIEVINGLY... AN EERIE LUMINESCENCE FLASHES A FAMILIAR SYMBOL INTO THE OCEANIC "SKY"!

IT MUST BE FROM SARIN! HE SAID HE WOULD SIGNAL YOU!

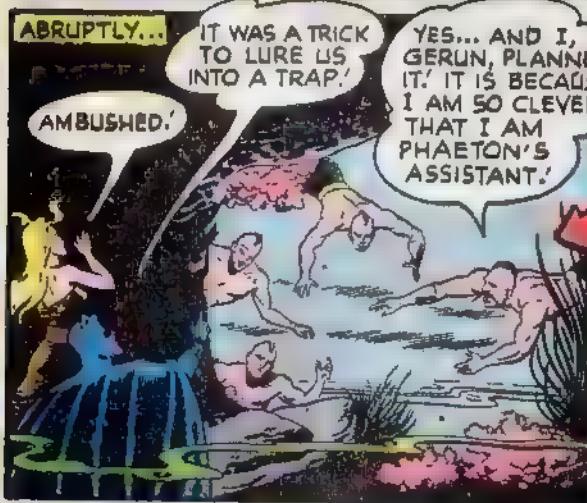
THE BAT-SIGNAL... HERE... AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA?



THE ANSWER—LUMINOUS FISH, GROUPED TOGETHER ON A WIRE FRAME SO THEIR LIGHT "BATTERIES" FORM THE SHAPE OF A BAT!



SWIFTLY, THE BAT-MERMAN AND THE MERMAID SWIM TOWARD THE BECKONING BEACON...



BAT-MERMAN RETURNS SHORTLY, GINGERLY CARRYING A SPINY CREATURE WHOSE MOUTH HE PLACES AGAINST THE WOUNDED SHOULDER...

THIS IS A SEA STAR... A RELATION OF THE COMMON STAR FISH! PEARL DIVERS USE IT AS A LEECH!



WHEN THE POISON IS DRAWN OUT AND THE WOUND BANDAGED, THETA LOOKS AT BAT-MERMAN WITH GLOWING EYES...

UH... IN YOUR SURFACE WORLD, WERE... WERE YOU EVER IN LOVE? DID... DID YOU HAVE A SWEETHEART?

NO... BUT THERE WAS A GIRL... VICKI VALE... I USED TO LIKE HER! WHY DO YOU ASK?



BUT THE QUESTION MUST REMAIN UNANSWERED FOR, SUDDENLY...

GERUN BUNGLED THE JOB! I ALWAYS FIND I MUST DO THINGS MYSELF!

BAT-MERMAN... BEHIND YOU! PHAETON!



LATER, BAT-MERMAN AWAKENS — A PRISONER INSIDE THE SUNKEN LINER!

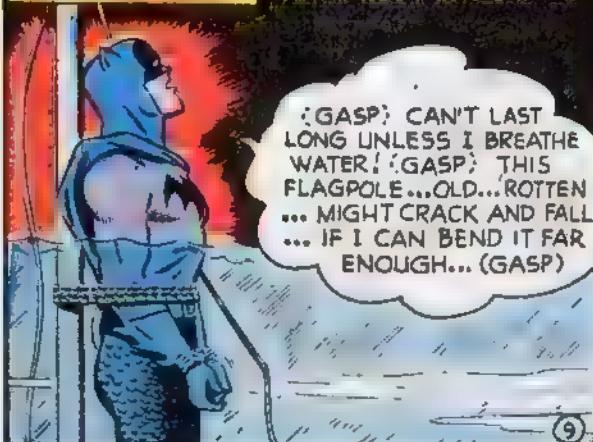
AIR... (GASP)... AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA?

YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT SOMETIMES AIR WILL BE TRAPPED IN A SINKING SHIP AND REMAIN AS AN AIR POCKET! SO YOU WILL DIE SOON... GASPING LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER... BECAUSE YOU'RE BREATHING AIR!



THUS THE MIGHTY CRIME-FIGHTER IS LEFT TO HIS IRONIC FATE!

(GASP) CAN'T LAST LONG UNLESS I BREATHE WATER! (GASP) THIS FLAGPOLE... OLD... ROTTEN... MIGHT CRACK AND FALL... IF I CAN BEND IT FAR ENOUGH... (GASP)



BUT THE VALIANT LAWMAN'S STRENGTH IS WEAKENING FAST...

(GASP) I SEE SOME SHARK PARASITES! WITH ONE OF THOSE CREATURES AND THIS DANGLING ROPE, I MAY FOOL PHAETON YET!

(GASP)

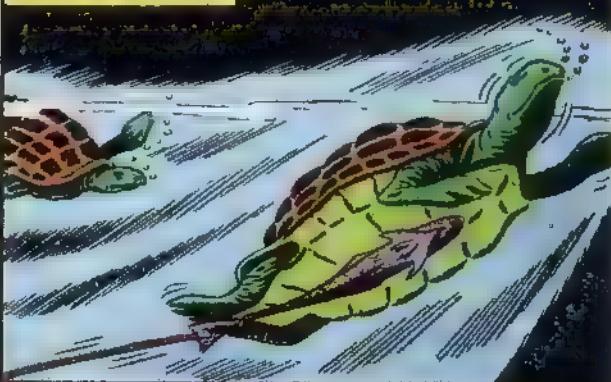


WHAT IS BAT-MERMAN'S PLAN FOR ESCAPE?

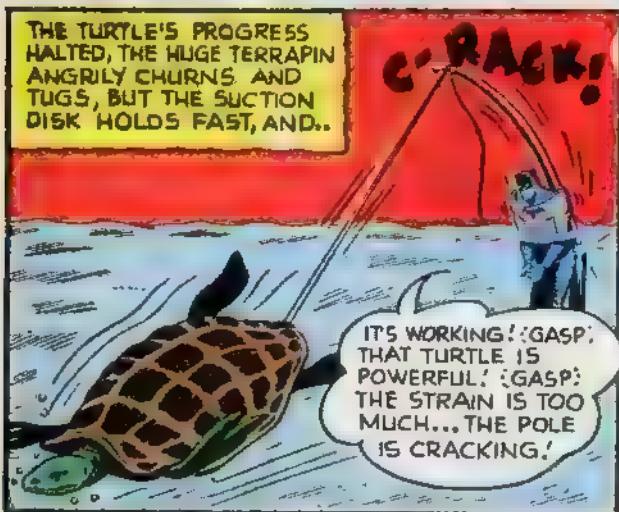
AS ONE CURIOUS FISH IDLES NEAR HIS HAND, BAT-MERMAN GRABS HIM, SOON KNOTS THE ROPE ABOUT HIS TAIL, AND...



LOOKING FOR A PLACE OF SAFETY, THE PARASITE FISH ATTACHES ITS AMAZING SUCTION DISK TO A TURTLE SHELL!



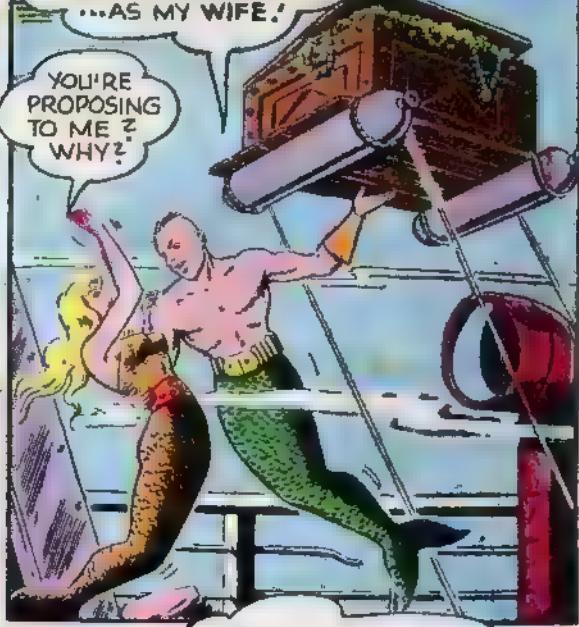
THE TURTLE'S PROGRESS HALTED, THE HUGE TERRAPIN ANGRILY CHURNS AND TUGS, BUT THE SUCTION DISK HOLDS FAST, AND...



ELSEWHERE, ON THE DECK OF THE HULK...

LOOK, THETA... GOLD... PEARLS! ON THE SURFACE THEY ARE A MEASURE OF WEALTH! THEY BUY SERVANTS, LUXURIES! YOU CAN SHARE ALL THAT WITH ME... AS MY WIFE!

YOU'RE PROPOSING TO ME? WHY?

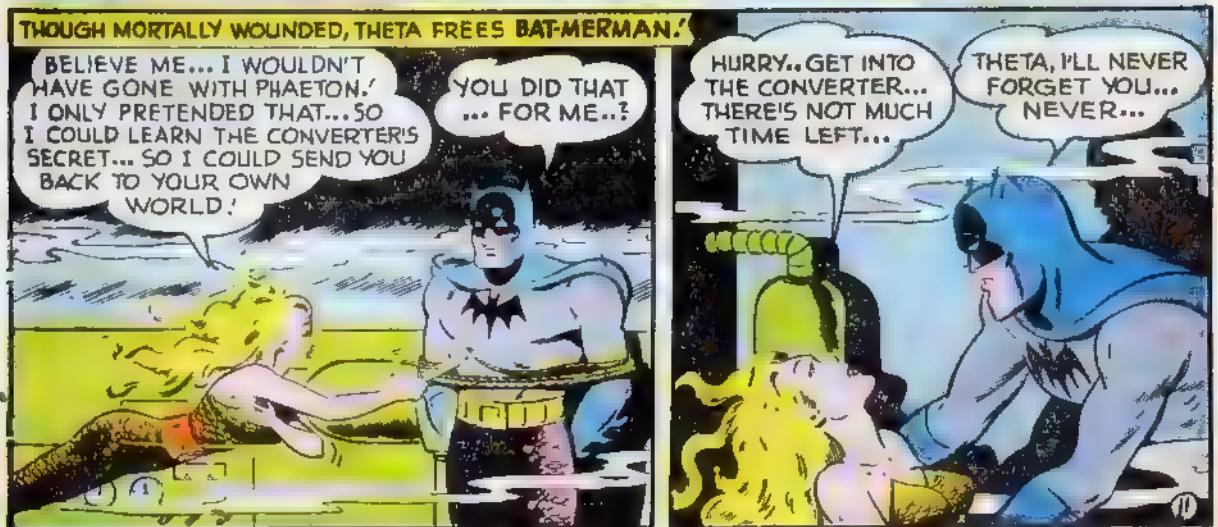
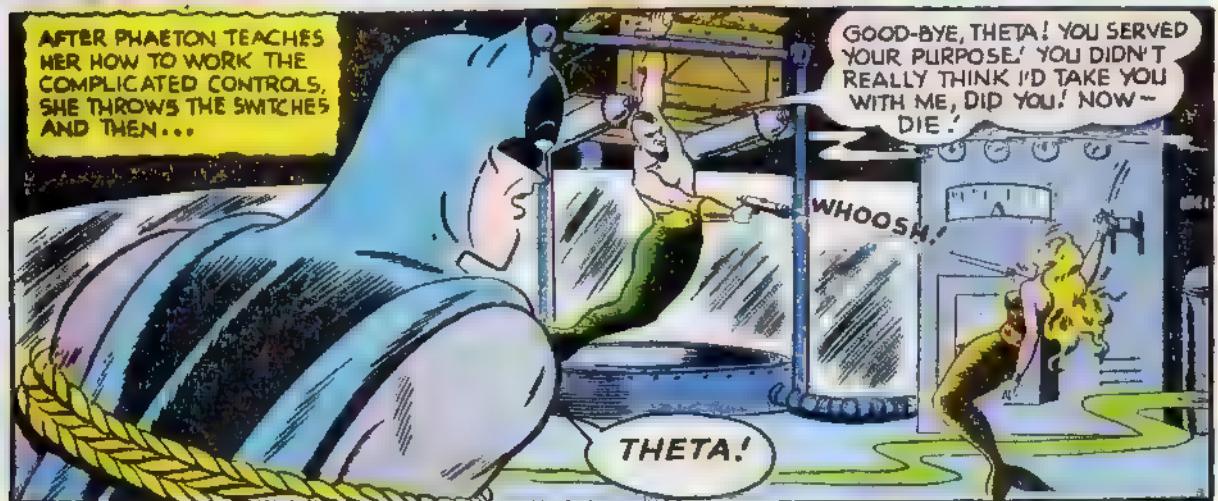
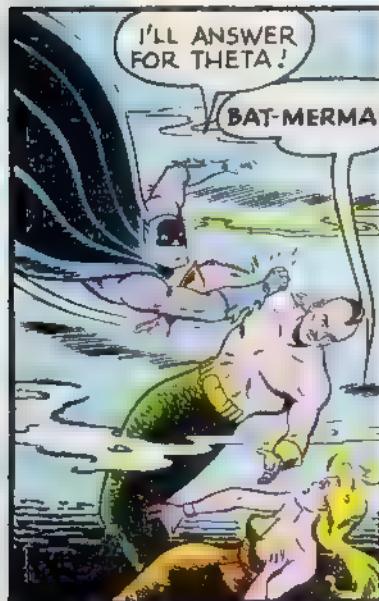


BECAUSE YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL! BESIDES, I NEED YOUR SKILL TO WORK THE CONVERTER CONTROLS! GERUN, MY ASSISTANT, WAS THE ONLY ONE I TAUGHT THE SECRET, BUT HE'S INJURED!



I COULD, IF MY HANDS WERE FREE, BUT I'LL BE HOLDING THE TREASURE CHEST! SO, AFTER SENDING ME UP FIRST, YOU CAN FOLLOW! THEN WE'LL LIVE LIKE A KING AND QUEEN! WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?





INSIDE THE CONVERTER, BAT-MERMAN HAS HIS LAST GLIMPSE OF THETA'S LOVELY FACE AND THEN-ROARING BLACKNESS!



AND WHEN BATMAN AWAKENS—ROBIN IS BENDING OVER HIM!



BEWILDERED, BATMAN RELATES HIS STORY...

BUT THAT'S CRAZY... FANTASTIC! IT'S YOUR DELIRIUM, I TELL YOU!

PERHAPS I'LL KNOW AFTER WE GET BACK TO THE HOTEL DOLPHIN AND GET PHAETON.



SOON AFTER, THE CRIME-BUSTERS CRASH INTO A HOTEL ROOM...



SEE? NO FISH TAIL...NO GILL MARKS BEHIND THE EARS!

IT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY PHAETON DRINKS SALT WATER... AND USES SEA WATER IN HIS TUB!



THEN, AFTER INVESTIGATION, ANOTHER MYSTERY IS EXPLAINED...

NOW YOU KNOW WHY PHAETON HAS SO MANY PEARLS. IT'S BECAUSE HE'S IN THE GEM-SMUGGLING RACKET AND STACK IS HIS PARTNER!



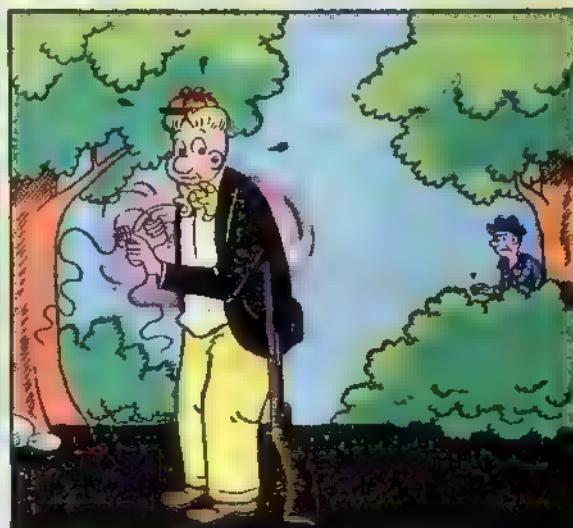
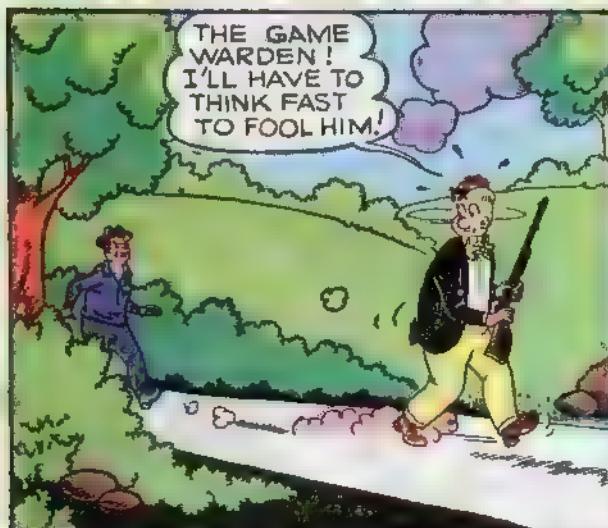
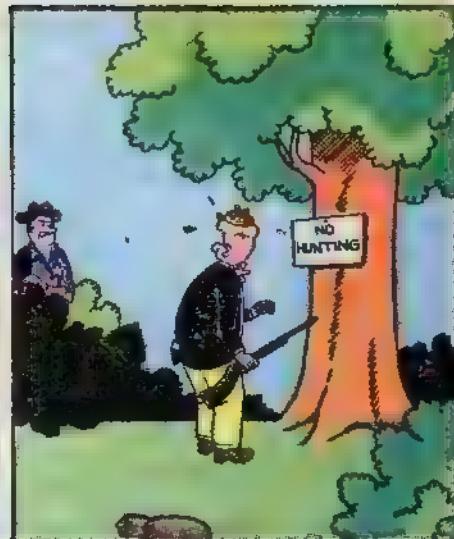
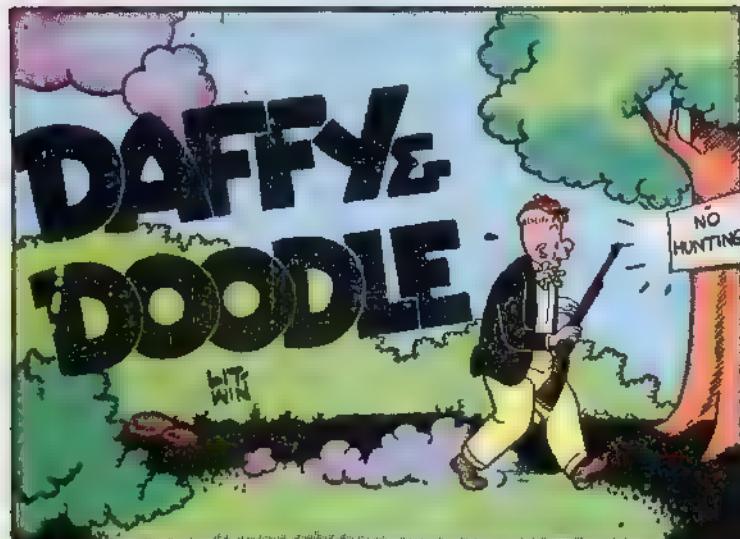
YES... EVERYTHING FITS... YET...

IF PHAETON REALLY WAS A MERMAN, HE WOULDN'T BE ONE NOW BECAUSE OF THE CONVERTER! THAT IS IF IT ALL HAPPENED... SO YOU SEE, I'LL NEVER REALLY KNOW IF IT WAS REAL OR A DREAM... I'LL NEVER KNOW...



NO WONDER EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT ROBIN THE BOY WONDER— FOLLOWING HIM IN STAR SPANGLED COMICS!

THE END  
BECAUSE EVERYONE IS



# "U.S." ROYAL

WITH HIS

JET-PROPELLED BIKE

FOLLOWING AN URGENT POLICE FLASH, DEPUTY U.S. ROYAL AND THE ELM CITY BIKE CLUB BOYS TRACK DANGEROUS KIDNAPPERS TO A LONELY HIDE-OUT. AS THE BOYS STAND GUARD, U.S. ROYAL JETS OFF FOR HELP...



HOPE THE BOYS DON'T RUN INTO TROUBLE BEFORE I GET BACK WITH THE POLICE...



HURRY UP WITH THAT RANSOM NOTE, MUGSY, SO WE CAN SCRAM OUTA HERE...

JEEZERS -- WE'VE GOTTA KEEP THEM HERE 'TILL ROYAL GETS BACK! C'MON -- I'VE GOT AN IDEA!



HOW TH-- WHAT A TIME FOR FLAT TIRES! GET THE HAND-PUMP -- WE GOTTA WORK FAST!



IT OUGHTA BE! -- WE GOT IT OUT OF BIKE COMICS IN "PICNIC PAY-OFF" WHEN JIMMY FULLER--

WHOA! DON'T SPOIL THE STORY... LET OUR READERS GET THEIR FREE COPIES FIRST!

WHEN YOU'RE RIDING ON U.S. ROYAL BIKE TIRES, YOU CAN BE SURE YOUR WHEELS ARE EQUIPPED FOR SPEED PLUS SAFETY... AND, SAT-- WHEN YOU SEE A HAPPY HUDDLE LIKE THAT ONE, YOU CAN BE JUST AS SURE THERE'S A COPY OF BIKE COMICS AT THE BOTTOM OF IT!



GET YOUR COPY OF  
"BIKE COMICS" AT YOUR  
U.S. ROYAL BIKE TIRE  
DEALER'S TODAY.  
IT'S **FREE!**



HEY, LOOK--A FULL-LENGTH ADVENTURE... CAPTURING BANK ROBBERS!



WAIT'LL YOU MEET KNUCKLE-HEAD-- HE NEVER DOES ANYTHING RIGHT!



TERRY'S MY FAVORITE... WOTTA SELLING JOB HE DOES ON POP!



LOOK FOR THIS SIGN IN YOUR BIKE DEALER'S WINDOW

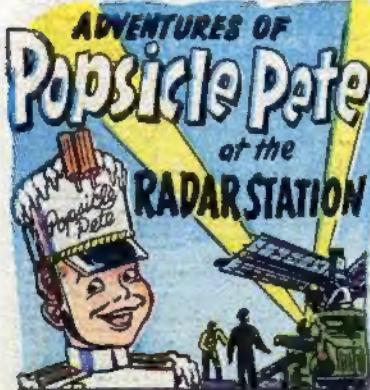


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16

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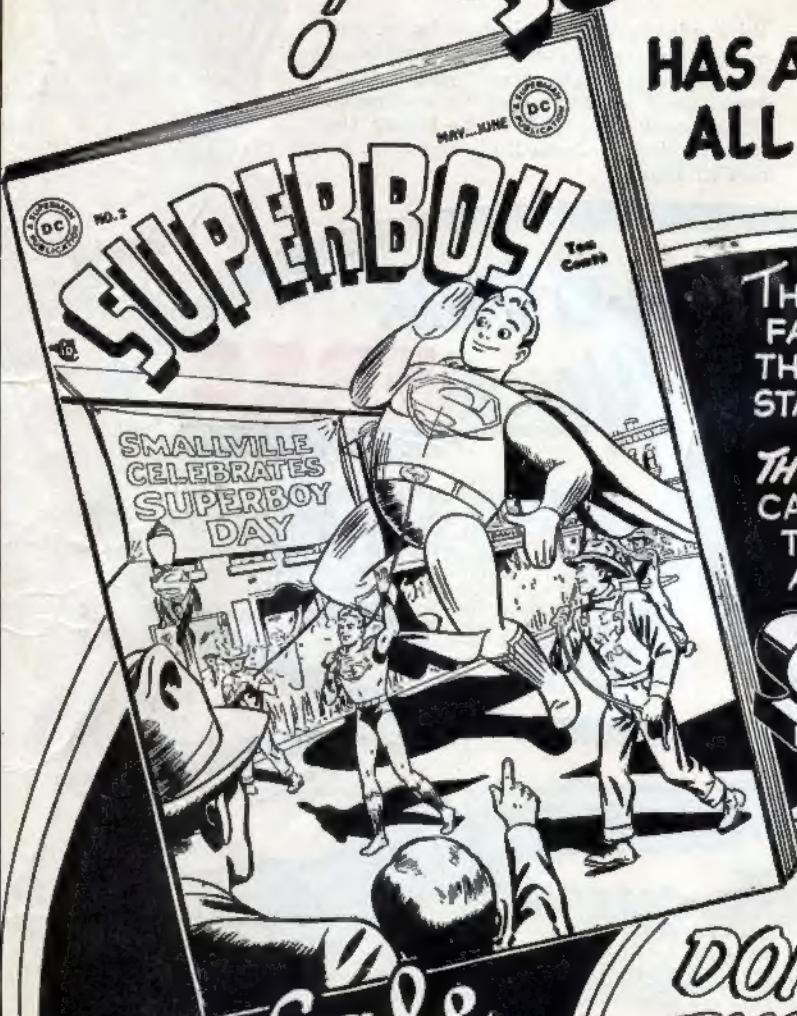
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